FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 DECEMBER 1983

PLO Affairs

'Arafat in Cairo — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Port Said, Egypt, early on 22 December, MENA announced, and conferred later the same day in Cairo with President Husni Mubarak. The two leaders held a press conference after private talks, the agency said, and Mubarak hosted a banquet for 'Arafat in the evening. Amman television predicted that 'Arafat would meet King Husayn in the "next few days" and that the Fatah Central Committee would hold a meeting chaired by 'Arafat "before the end of this month."

Palestinian Groups Meet — Representatives of the DFLP-PFLP joint command, the Palestine Communist Party, and the Palestine Liberation Front held at an expanded political meeting in Damascus on 19 December and released a political statement published by the UAE paper *AL-KHALIJ*. The statement viewed U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation as an attempt to strengthen the occupation of Arab areas by "expanding settlement projects and by the actual annexation" of those areas. It underlined the need to adhere to the Lebanese cease-fire and stressed the right for all Palestinian factions to be on confrontation lines near the "Zionist enemy" and to work in "democratic coexistence" in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon. The parties also called for an expanded Palestinian leadership meeting comprising representatives of all major organzations, including the two factions of Fatah, and asserted that the pressures on the Palestinian movement must be fought by stopping calls to renew dialogue with Jordan and to abandon the isolation imposed on Egypt.

Lebanon

Bombings — A truck loaded with explosives blew up outside the headquarters of the French contingent of the Multinational Force, killing 9 and wounding 10 others, Beirut radio announced. Paris radio acknowledged that one French soldier was killed and "a dozen" wounded, while the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon gave figures of 9 dead and "over 100" wounded. Among those wounded was Information Minister Roger Shaykhani, who was released from the hospital after treatment, Beirut radio said. An Army Command statement broadcast by the radio said the truck's driver escaped in a car that had been waiting nearby.

Almost simultaneous with the explosion at the French headquarters, another bomb went off in the Al-Hamra area of Beirut, killing 4 and wounding 12, Beirut radio said. An anonymous telephone call to the Voice of Lebanon radio claimed that the "Black Palm organization" was responsible for both bombings. The "Islamic Jihad movement" also claimed responsibility for the blasts in a telephone call to AFP.

Military Developments — A U.S. Marine patrol was fired on in the 'Ayn al-Muraysah area and one Marine was wounded, Beirut radio reported. Meanwhile, Lebanese Army positions in Suq al-Gharb and the surrounding mountain regions continued to come under shell and rocket fire, according to the radio, and the Voice of Lebanon stated that Progressive Socialist Party forces shelled a monastery in Juniyah and the surrounding area. An Israeli patrol was fired on in Sidon, Beirut radio added.

Political Developments — President Reagan's news conference statements on the Marines' remaining in Lebanon and U.S. commitment to solve the Lebanese question was met with "general satisfaction" in official and popular Lebanese circles, Beirut radio reported. Meanwhile, Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri arrived in Beirut on 20 December to pursue contacts aimed at effecting an "interim disengagement" among all warring factions pending a meeting of the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Lebanon on ways to dispel tension in Lebanon, according to a political source cited by KUNA. Beirut radio reported that Al-Hariri met that day with Foreign Minister Elie Salim to discuss the results of Saudi contacts with Syria.

In another development, the Iranian charge d'affaires contacted the Lebanese Foreign Ministry to explain that he and his staff had been "detained" by "ulema and gunmen" and would not be able to leave Lebanon as the Lebanese Government had ordered, Beirut radio announced. AFP quoted the charge as remarking to a group of Shi'ite religious leaders that the Americans "will leave Lebanon before we do" and that "the decision to break relations with Iran is a challenge to Muslims that we will prevent."

Dayr al-Qamar — IDF troops safeguarding the evacuation of Phalangists and Christian civilians from Dayr al-Qamar ended their mission and returned to their positions south of the Al-Awwali River, leaving the Red Cross and Lebanese security forces to oversee the remainder of the withdrawal, IDF Radio announced. On 21 December the radio said that Druze forces had not attempted to harrass the withdrawing Phalangists and Christians and predicted that the evacuation would end "within 3 days." However, security sources cited by Beirut radio reported that a convoy of evacuees from the besieged town was fired on early on 22 December.

Tripoli Situation — In the wake of the departure of Palestinian forces loyal to Yasir 'Arafat, the Islamic Unification Movement and Lebanese Internal Security Forces have been patrolling the city, the Voice of Lebanon stated. The radio asserted that contacts to end "armed manifestations" and reduce tension in the city will be completed on 22 December.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League foreign ministers will meet in Riyadh on 26 January to prepare for the Arab summit meeting scheduled to be held in the same city on 31 March, according to an Arab League General Secretariat statement reported by SPA.

Saharan Affairs

An SDAR communique reported by Algiers radio stated that "fierce battles" are taking place between the "Saharan People's Liberation Army" and the Moroccan Army. The communique asserted that that the Moroccan Army had attacked with 25,000 men equipped with heavy weapons and supported by the Moroccan Air Force.

Sudan

A "senior responsible Egyptian source," in a statement published in *AL-AHRAM*, dismissed the ETHIOPIAN NEWS AGENCY's claim that Egypt has sent warplanes to Sudan, insisting that Egypt has no warplanes or military forces in Sudan, MENA reported.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Arab League Summit Scheduled For 31 March

LD211903 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1813 GMT
21 Dec 83

[Text] The General Secretariat of the Arab League has announced that the Arab foreign ministers will hold a meeting on 26 February in Riyadh, during which they will pave the way for the forthcoming Arab summit meeting due to be held in the same city on 31 March. A communique issued by the Arab League General Secretariat today says that the Arab foreign ministers will formulate a draft agenda for the summit meeting and documents pertaining to it.

The communique says that there will be at least 2 weeks between the meeting of the foreign ministers and the summit meeting, so the ministers can go back to their respective governments for more consultations. As for convening the preparatory meeting, member states will continue efforts to ensure the appropriate climate for a good preparation for the activity of the summit so as to secure the results anticipated by the Arab nation.

'Arafat To Meet Jordan's Husayn 'Next Few Days'

JN211851 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT
21 Dec 83

[Excerpt] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said that he will meet with His Majesty King Husayn in the next few days. Speaking to journalists on board the ship that was transporting him from Tripoli, 'Arafat added that he will call for a meeting of the Fatah Central Committee before the end of this month and that his departure from Tripoli at the hands of the Syrian forces and dissidents is only one step in the long march toward Jerusalem.

Statement Issued on Expanded Palestinian Meeting

GF211643 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic
21 Dec 83 p 4

[Joint political statement issued following the meeting of the joint command of the PFLP and the DFLP, the Palestinian Liberation Front, and the Palestinian Communist Party held in Damascus on 19 December 1983]

[Text] An expanded political meeting that included representatives of the joint command of the PFLP and the DFLP, the Palestinian Communist Party, and the Palestinian Liberation Front was held on 19 December 1983. The meeting reviewed the situation in the region, especially in light of the escalation of the aggressive U.S., Atlantic, and Israeliactivities and the indications of the latest U.S.-Israeli agreement. It also discussed the Palestinian situation after the events of Tripoli and the tasks of all the national Palestinian and Arab forces in uniting their ranks in order to confront decisively the imperialist and Zionist aggression.

The meeting decided the following:

1. The U.S.-Israeli agreement represents a specific step in the overall aggressive course pursued by the United States and Israel. This agreement, according to which the United States offers the maximum military and economic aid to Israel and which is the first of its kind in the history of relations between the two parties, also included a number of political and strategic steps represented by the absolute adherence to the surrender which is imposed on Lebanon and the common endeavor to remove the Syrian and Palestinian forces from Lebanon for the purpose of turning Lebanon into an Israeli-U.S. protectorate and for the purpose of expanding the areas of deployment for the sectarian Lebanese Army at the expense of the Lebanese national forces and their role. It is obvious that these objectives can only be achieved by resorting to the aggressive means and war, especially against fraternal Syria. This is exactly what is being currently prepared by the Pentagon and the generals of Tel Aviv. This preparation began through the military operations that were launched with the participation and coordination of the U.S., Atlantic, and Israeli troops against the positions of the Syrian, Palestinian, and Lebanese Nationalist Forces.

The Arab and Syrian confrontation of this aggression and designs of the United States, NATO, and Israel is being supported by all the liberation and peace forces in the world, foremost of which is the Soviet Union. The firmness of the Syrian stand in the face of all forms of U.S. political and military blackmail represents a safety valve for protecting the national destiny. This requires the Arab countries and all nationalists and progressive forces to strongly back this by the effective support and all forms of political, popular and material struggle. It has become clear that the U.S.-Israeli alliance also includes the agreement of both sides to strengthen occupation of the Arab areas by expanding settlement projects and by the actual annexation. The U.S Administration has previously informed some Arab capitals that the agreement between Washington and Tel Aviv on the destiny of the Palestinian people, according to the expression of this administration, is represented by the endeavor to improve the quality of life of the Palestinians in the occupied lands. This confirms that the United States supports without any reservations the Israeli concept of autonomy which is based on the annexation of the occupied lands and on the limitation of the Palestinian people's rights by some of the informal administrative arrangements concerning the autonomous rule, the continuation of the settlement policy, and the preparations for dismissing many inhabitants outside their lands and homeland. This is now being carried out by the occupation troops in the name of resettling the refugees and liquidating the camps in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In light of that, this agreement threatens directly the interests and national rights of our people and their rights to exist in their homeland. This situation calls for supporting the struggle of our masses in the occupied lands — our masses who are confronting the Zionist terrorism and the conspiracy of settlement and autonomous rule — and calls for achieving the maximum level of unity and coordination both inside and outside the occupied lands and for working to revive the national Palestinian front inside those lands. The PLO should shoulder its responsibility in confronting this deadly threat and the Arab countries and all the allies of our people and their struggle should play their role at all Arab and international levels against the U.S. and Zionist designs to liquidate the Palestinian issue.

The danger of the U.S.-Zionist plan is quite clear through the design which is aimed at striking against Syria and liquidating the national Palestinian rights and at subjugating all Lebanon. This design can only be foiled by strengthening the unity of the basic national forces represented by Syria, the Palestinian revolution, and the Lebanese Nationalist Forces through their alliance with the Soviet Union and through their determination. No matter how long the battle may be an whatever the cost may be, these forces should not give up or bargain on their interests and Islamic rights.

2. The meeting also reviewed the situation within the Palestinian revolution after the cease-fire agreement in the north. The participants in the meeting stressed the necessity of firmly adhering to and abiding by the cease-fire agreement and stressed the necessity of not resorting to fighting and violent methods to settle their differences. The meeting called for adopting democratic dialogue as the only means. The meeting also noted that the protection of the PLO and its independence and the safety of its national course and role in struggling against the imperialist and Zionist aggression requires the following:

A. The right of all the Palestinian revolution forces to be present at the confrontation lines with the Zionist enemy and not to be dispersed in exile and to areas far from the battlefield.

B. All the factions of the Palestinian revolution have the right to remain and work on the basis of democratic coexistence in the camps in Lebanon.

C. It is necessary to maintain the role and continuity of the work of the leading legitimate institutions of the PLO and to avoid anything that can threaten the unity and prestige of these institutions.

D. Stemming from their endeavor to avoid anything that can threaten the unity of the PLO and for the purpose of settling the current crisis within the Palestinian framework, the four parties signing this statement call for immediate preparations for holding an expanded Palestinian leadership meeting that includes the members of the Executive Committee, the secretaries general of the resistance factions, the chairman of the Palestine National Council, the committee emerging from the Palestinian Central Council, and the two parties of the Fatah movement. This meeting would have full authority to discuss the internal crisis and the means of settling it on basis of the memorandum of the Council's Central Committee and the proposals for the internal democratic reform in the PLO, including the plan of unity and reform proposed by the joint command of the PFLP and the DFLP and any other proposals and plans that are presented by the participating parties.

E. When this meeting reaches a comprehensive national, political and organizational agreement, it will be the time to make preparations for convening the coming session of the PNC so that the Council can explain this agreement and devote the unity of the Palestinian revolution with all its factions and forces within the framework of the PLO and its legitimate institutions and thus it can prevent any divisions or rupture in the revolution's ranks.

This proposal which is adopted by the four parties and which is agreed upon by many forces and national Palestinian figures is the only way to begin settling the internal crisis within the Palestinian framework and to maintain the unity and independence of the PLO and its role as the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people. We affirm that the way of salvation is the way of maintaining the unity of all national Palestinian forces on basis of the resolutions of the PNC and the National Charter, which considers the PLO as a national front for all national forces and figures.

All the current circumstances in the Arab region and the threats to the struggle of our Palestinian people require the maximum degree of national unity, the adherence to the national line of the PLO, resistance to the Arab reactionary pressures which are trying to exploit the current difficulties witnessed by the Palestinian revolution in order to lead some parties of the revolution to the Amman-Cairo axis, and through this axis, to deal with the U.S. liquidation settlements.

The protection of the achievements of the revolution and its role in leading the struggle of our people requires us to confront these pressures and to stop the calls for restoring the dialogue with the Jordanian regime and for abandoning the isolation imposed on the Egyptian regime and also requires us to insist on a decisive policy and national course in harboring hostility to the imperialism, Zionism, and Arab reaction.

The meeting also decided to make direct contacts with all the parties concerned within the Palestinian revolution to discuss these proposals and to confirm the firm rejection of any violation of the resolutions of the Palestine National Council.

The four forces present these proposals to the masses of our people inside and outside, all the popular and trade unions organizations, the municipalities, the national figures, and all the factions of the revolution and its struggling forces to play their role and to raise their voice in defending the achievements of the revolution, its unity, independence, and struggling national course.

Fatah's Al-Hasan on PNC Council, Jordan

GF221028 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0820 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Doha, 22 Dec (WAKH) — Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan has announced that it has been decided to convene the general congress of the movement which is the highest authority in the movement in January and to hold the session of the Palestine National Council [PNC] in February.

In a statement to the Qatari newspaper *AR-RAYAH* published today he said that before convening the congress a report prepared by the committee investigating the previous events will be presented to the Central Committee for study and then it will be discussed in the Fatah general congress in light of the division that has occurred and in light of what has happened in Tripoli.

Khalid al-Hasan, who played the role of the general coordinator for organizing the exit of 'Arafat and his men from Tripoli by contacting Paris, Tripoli, Athens, and Riyadh, hailed the role played by France in helping in the evacuation of 'Arafat and the

Palestinian troops from Tripoli and in providing protection and ensuring their safety. He said that it is not the first time France has played such a role for the Palestinians. He said that France had previously helped in the release of the prisoners of war and shouldered alone all the expenses of the operation which reached $1 million. Khalid al-Hasan expressed the hope that France's humanitarian position will be followed by a similar position in support of Palestinian rights. At the same time, he ruled out the possibility that 'Arafat will soon visit France.

Khalid al-Hasan said that the investigations and fact-finding committees that were formed by the Fatah movement and the PLO to reassess the Palestinian situation and to investigate the reasons that led to the departure from Lebanon are continuing their work. These committees worked for 6,000 hours investigating all the events during the previous stage and the mistakes and the political and military practices. He added that the objective of this review is to extract useful lessons in order to formulate a work plan that can add more effectiveness to the Palestinian action on the political, media, and military levels and that can strengthen the structure of the Palestinian institutions.

Regarding the stage after the evacuation and the future of relations between Jordan and the PLO, Khalid al-Hasan affirmed the eventuality of beginning a Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue to coordinate these relations independent of foreign political positions. He said that this means that no previous political position or any specific initiative will be considered. He said that it was decided that 'Arafat would go to Amman to meet with His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan because the new stage requires the establishment of relations that can protect the common interests in light of the latest events. Al-Hasan announced that the confederation between Jordan and Palestine has become one of the constant and important facts in the common Palestinian and Jordanian future. He said that all matters are moving toward achieving this objective which will be reached when circumstances allow for a Palestinian-Jordanian referendum on this issue.

Fatah Forces Said Forging ID Cards

NC220723 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Information received by the Voice of Lebanon indicates that Fatah has forged Lebanese identity cards and passports for about 1,000 of its fighters as a preliminary to joining the Islamic Unification Movement. It has been learned that 'Arafat and Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban are preoccupied with forming a nucleus for the Islamic Unification Movement in West Beirut. Earlier, Palestinians entered West Beirut with a local armed organization.

Palestinians Attack Israeli Military Patrols

JN211724 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Our revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland continue to escalate their operations against the Zionist occupation forces. In the occupied city of Jabulus, our revolutionaries have carried out a daring attack on a military patrol of the Zionist borders guard. The patrol was destroyed and several Zionist soldiers were either killed or wounded.

Our revolutionaries in Gaza launched another daring attack on a Zionist military patrol as it was moving on the city's main road. The attackers destroyed the patrol and either killed or wounded several Zionist soldiers.

A Zionist military spokesman admitted the two attacks but as usual claimed that there were no casualties. The Zionist forces mopped up the two cities, and arrested many Palestinian citizens.

KUWAIT

Interior Ministry Statement on Public Meetings

LD211108 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Statement by Ministry of the Interior issued 21 December]

[Text] The Ministry of the Interior draws the attention of honorable citizens to the requirements of law No 65 of 1979 concerning public meetings and gatherings. This law makes it illegal to hold or organize a public meeting without obtaining permission to do so from the governor of the place where the meeting is to be held. The law also makes it illegal to extend an invitation to hold a public meeting or to advertize such a meeting or to publish news about it before obtaining this permit

A meeting is considered to be a public meeting when at least 20 persons attend or can attend such a meeting to talks about or to debate a public subject or subjects or matters or demands concerning specific factions.

The ministry appeals to citizens to abide by the rules of the law and not to hold or invite people to a public meeting except after obtaining permission to hold the meeting, so that the ministry will not be compelled to apply the measures included in this law.

Court Named To Try Bombing Suspects

GF211156 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 20 Dec 83 p 1

[Excerpt] Kuwait today formed under amiri decree a state security court to try 10 members of a Muslim fundamentalist group held in connection with the wave of bombings in the country last week, a government spokesman said. The spokesman, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, told reporters the government had ended its investigation and referred files on the case to the general prosecutor.

Under the decree issued by HH the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, the three-man court will be headed by first instance court judge Ghazi Obayd as-Sammar. The other two members of the court are the counsellor of the appeal court, Isma'il Zazuwah and the commissioner of the court of first instance, 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Murshid.

Under Kuwait's judicial system, the transfer of the case to prosecution marks the first step in the trial proceedings. Officials said the hearing was expected to start within the week.

The court has commissioned 10 defence attorneys, one for each of the defendants. Another suspect, still at large, was also assigned a lawyer.

Knowledgeable sources expect the prosecutor to demand the death penalty for all the suspects and the trial to be swift. The sentences passed by the state security court are binding and cannot be changed by any other court in Kuwait.

The security court handles cases involving internal and external security, arson and in special circumstances the Cabinet can call it into session.

Husayn said on Sunday that all ten suspects, seven Iraqis and three Lebanese, had admitted involvement in the incidents as well as participating in planning the blasts. A twelfth man involved in the blasts, which left four dead and 61 injured, and said to be the driver of the dump truck that blasted the U.S. embassy, was killed.

Security sources said the 12 entered Kuwait during the past three years on visitors' visas and then found work in the private sector.

QATAR

Foreign Minister Receives FRG State Minister

GF211242 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Doha, 21 Dec (WAKH) — Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs, received here today FRG Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Jurgen Mollemann, who is currently visiting Doha. During the meeting they discussed bilateral relations and means of developing them and reviewed the current Arab and international situation.

FRG Minister Meets Press

GF211907 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Doha, 21 Dec (WAKH) — The FRG expressed its disappointment over the U.S. policy in the Middle East and said it sides with Israel.

In a press conference held here today, FRG Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Jurgen Mollemann said that his country is exerting efforts to convince Washington to follow a policy that is more tuned to the region. The FRG minister also expressed his belief in Jordanian King Husayn's ability to play an effective and important role in finding a solution to the Middle East problem, but he affirmed that in order to do so, the Jordanian king will need the support of the upcoming Arab summit conference and the United States.

He also affirmed the importance of Egypt's return to the Arab ranks as soon as possible, expressing his belief that collective Arab efforts should be exerted in this regard.

Regarding a question on the Iraq-Iran war and its dimensions, the FRG minister called for end to this war, which is causing the destruction of the warring countries and negatively affecting the security of the whole region.

Referring to his talks in Qatar, he said they dealt with the Middle East issue, the Iraq-Iran war, and the Lebanese crisis, in addition to a number of issues of mutual interest. On joint cooperation between his country and Qatar, the FRG minister said that during his talks with the Qatari officials it was agreed that he will pay a second visit to Qatar in the near future, heading an

FRG delegation which will include representatives of industrial sectors in the FRG, in order to discuss an agreement for the development of the cooperation in various fields. He expressed his country's desire for the participation of the FRG companies in the development project of the Qatar gas field, in addition to cooperation in the internal security field.

SAUDI ARABIA

YAR Foreign Minister Message to King Fahd

LD211411 Riyadh SPA in English 1238 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Riyadh, Dec 21 SPA — HM King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received here today North Yemen's Foreign Minister Ahmad al-Asbahi who delivered to him a message from president 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.The royal audience was attended by the Saudi foreign under secretary for political affairs, 'Abd ar-Rahman Mansuri, and the Yemeni ambassador to the kingdom, Ahmad al-Muhayni.

Before his departure from San'a earlier today, al-Asbahi said the message deals with consultation and coordination between the Kingdom and North Yemen on Arab and Islamic issues specially at this moment when the Arab and Islamic nations are subject to dangerous conspiracies.

UAE

Recent Arab-European Dialogue Criticized

GF211714 Manama WAKH in English 1520 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 Dec (WAKH) — The United Arab Emirates today expressed dissatisfaction over the outcome of the Arab-European dialogue held in Athens last week and blamed the 10-nation European Economic Council, EEC, for its failure to reaffirm previous resolutions on the Palestinian rights. The meeting did not bring about the aspired results, which through dialogue can contribute in realizing just peace in the Middle East, Najim ad-Din Hammudi, head of the UAE delegation to the meeting said.

"The Arab side...did not expect further progress from the European side on the Palestinian question in light of the deteriorating conditions presently experienced by the Arab nation," Hammudi said.However, he added, "We were hoping to reaffirm previous European declarations that recognized the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people."

Hammudi praised Greece, current chairman of the EEC, for its pro-Arab policies and said the Arab side was "flexible" and did not want any failure. He said the other European countries referred to their leaders failure to issue a statement on the Middle East, as a pretext for the dialogues failure. Hammudi said the Europeans, however, will abide by their previous declarations and that both sides decided to keep the dialogue open. He said the Arab side considered the European position as a "major retreat", but expressed the hope that continued contacts with them would make the "Europeans reconsider their position and contribute seriously in solving the problems of the region."

"Economic cooperation between the Arab and European groups could not be separated from political cooperation and the need to ensure peace and stability the area," Hammudi warned in conclusion.

YAR

President Receives DFLP Secretary General

GF211952 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office at the presidential palace Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP].

During the meeting, the current situation on the Arab and international arenas and the recent developments in the Palestinian issue were discussed.

The president, secretary general of the General People's Congress, reiterated our country's firm and principled stance in supporting the Palestinian revolution, under the leadership of its sole legitimate representative, the PLO. He affirmed the importance of work for the cohesion of the Palestinian revolution factions in order to confront the conspiracies that aim at the PLO's unity and the dangers that threaten the Palestinian revolution.

During the meeting, Nayif Hawatimah expressed his and the Palestinian people's extreme gratitude for the stance of our country, president, government, and people, in supporting the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian people's struggle in order to enable the victory of their revolution, restoration of their legitimate rights and establishment of their independent state on their national soil.

The meeting was attended by 'Abd as-Salam (al-Ansi), assistant secretary of the Standing Committee, and Hikmat Zayd, PLO representative in San'a'.

Reportage on Arrival of Yasir 'Arafat

Arrives in Port Said

NC220647 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0611 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA) — PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived at Port Said early this morning. Port Said's Governor Sayyid Sarhan visited 'Arafat on board the ship. 'Arafat warmly received him while the Palestinian fighters were shouting "Long Live" for Egypt, 'Arafat, and the Palestinian revolution.

Makes Statement in Port Said

NC220907 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA) — PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived at Port Said early this morning. Port Said's Governor Sayyid Sarhan visited 'Arafat on board the ship. 'Arafat warmly received him while the Palestinian fighters were shouting "Long Live" for Egypt, 'Arafat, and the Palestinian revolution. Yasir 'Arafat made a speech in which he thanked Husni Mubarak for his principled stance and for the stance of the Egyptian people during the Beirut and Tripoli sieges. 'Arafat said he will never forget these stances. 'Arafat said during the Beirut siege he felt the greatness, warmth, and support of Egypt exactly in the same way he did when the Egyptian delegation went to Tripoli to stand by 'Arafat and the Lebanese people in the face of tyranny.

'Arafat said: I am telling the Port Said governor, who is here now to represent Egypt and dear President Mubarak, that a pledge is a pledge and a vow is a vow. We are struggling together not only in defense of Egypt or Palestine, but we are defending the Arab people side by side and in the same trench. We are carrying one rifle and aiming it at the enemies of the Arab people.

'Arafat added: I am speaking these words in Egypt and I had the honor of participating in the fighting here in Port Said alongside all these heroes against the wicked tripartite aggression when I was a reservist in the Egyptian Army. 'Arafat concluded: I am telling all my kinfolk in Egypt that, God willing, we will meet in Jerusalem and pray in the Al-'Aqsa mosque. 'Arafat added that following the arrival of the Palestinian forces in Yemen, he will visit Saudi Arabia within the framework of a tour of some Arab countries. Answering a question on whether he will allow the dissidents to attend the meetings of the PNC in case it is convened, 'Arafat said: I am a democratic man. Any PNC member is entitled to attend the PNC's meetings. The PNC will decide what to do. I cannot force my opinion on the PNC. Asked whether the PNC will meet soon, Yasir 'Arafat said that Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid has invited the PNC to meet in Algeria as it did last year and that the PNC will soon meet. 'Arafat said: I am taking this opportunity to thank the Algerian president for the principled stance he adopted during the Beirut siege and for the aid and support he has given us.

Asked whether there will be a meeting with King Husayn of Jordan soon, 'Arafat said that he has an invitation from King Husayn to visit Jordan and that a date of the visit will be set later. Asked whether there is a way other than the dialogue to settle the Palestine question, 'Arafat said that the oppressed and occupied people, according to the UN Charter, may use all means to confront colonialism and occupation.

Sayyid Sarhan delivered a speech in which he said: I ampleased to convey to you, and to all the heroic fighters accompanying you, greetings from President Husni Mubarak and all the Egyptian people. The governor of Port Said greeted the Palestinian fighters and said: You have always demonstrated that you are brave heroic fighters who have given your cause, and the Arab nation's cause, all that honest men can give in the most honorable area of the peoples' history. You have given thousands of martyrs and you have irrigated with your pure blood the fields of struggle for several years for the sake of achieving the Palestinian people's rights in their usurped territory and the establishment of their homeland.

The Port Said governor noted that it was a good omen that the heroes' visit to us coincided with an anniversary dear to the Egyptian people, namely, the anniversary of their victory in 1956 war.

Later, 'Arafat, accompanied by the Port Said governor, toured the city for 30 minutes. He then went to the Suez Canal Authority's rest house where he spent some time before returning to the ship *Odhisseas Elitis* which he boarded in Tripoli. A reception is due to be accorded to Yasir 'Arafat later today at Lake Timsah in Ismailia.

The three Greek ships which carried 3,553 Palestinian fighters arrived in territorial waters at approximately 2030 last night on their way to North Yemen through the Suez Canal. Sayyid Sarhan visited 'Arafat aboard the ship at 2300 last night.

He was accompanied by the governorate's leaders; representatives from the Ministries of Defense and Interior; PNC members Dr Nabil Shi'at and Muhammad Subayh; and his sister Mrs Khadijah 'Arafat.

Leaves Ismailia for Cairo

NC221056 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Ismailia, 22 Dec (MENA) — This morning PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat left Ismailia for Cairo aboard a helicopter to meet with President Husni Mubarak. 'Arafat was accompanied by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din; Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the president's office for foreign affairs.

Mubarak Meets With 'Arafat

NC221251 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1232 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA) — This afternoon President Husni Mubarak received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at the presidential palace in Al-Qubbah. President Mubarak welcomed 'Arafat at the threshold of the presidential palace staircase where he shook hands with 'Arafat and expressed his pleasure over 'Arafat's safe arrival. 'Arafat arrived at the presidential palace in Al-Qubbah at 1215 from Ismailia on board a helicopter. He was accompanied by Prime Minister

Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din; Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the presidential office for political affairs. The officials went to Ismailia this morning to welcome the Palestinian leader and escort him to the presidential palace. After Mubarak shook hands with the Palestinian leader, he accompanied him to his office where they held an exclusive meeting.

It is noteworthy that 'Arafat is accompanied by a Palestinian delegation which includes PLO official spokesman Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman; PLO representative to Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah; Sa'id Kamal, assistant director for the PLO's political department; and Dr Nabil Sha'ath, 'Arafat's adviser for international affairs.

After the 2-hour meeting, President Husni Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat held a news conference attended by many international correspondents. The news conference was also attended by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din; Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; Dr Usamah al-Baz; and the Palestinian delegation accompanying Yasir 'Arafat. President Mubarak delivered a statement at the outset of the news conference, in which he said: I am pleased to meet today with Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] in Egypt and I meet with him for the first time since I assumed office in the Arab Republic of Egypt. I am pleased to meet with him as a struggler and moderate leader of the Palestinians struggling to obtain the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Mubarak said: We exchanged views on all problems relating to the [Palestinian] question. Egypt has not and will not hesitate to support the Palestine question.

He said: I welcome Brother Abu 'Ammar once again to Cairo and I wish him success and a safe journey. On this occasion, I would like to point out that when the ships carrying our Palestinian brothers entered the territorial waters and even before that, the Egyptian Naval fleet and our Air Force escorted these ships to the Egyptian ports. President Mubarak reiterated: I wish him a safe journey.

Then Yasir 'Arafat made a statement in reply to President Mubarak's speech. He said: "Certainly, I would like to thank His Excellency the president for this national and pan-Arab stand by us at all difficult times. Your Excellency the president, we will neither forget your stand with your Palestinian brothers in Beirut during the siege and the Beirut epic, nor will we forget your stand while we were in Arab and Muslim Tripoli." 'Arafat also said: "I will not foget your approval of the large delegation that represented all the Egyptian organizations to visit us and stay with us [in Tripoli] for some time in order to share with us the siege we lived through. This nobility of the Egyptian people led by you constitutes a new dimension of the stage the Arab nation is passing through. On this occasion, Your Excellency, I extend my thanks to every Egyptian individual, man and woman, for this warmth we have felt, which expresses our permanent relationship."

'Arafat said: "For ages Egypt has been the real support for the Palestinian people and for the restoration of Palestine. God willing, we will pray together in the Al-Aqsa mosque. We must remember God almighty's word: And to enter your temple as they had entered it before, and to visit with destruction all that fell into their power. [punctuation as received]

'Arafat added: "Once again, I thank Your Excellency for this protection you have provided for your Palestinian brothers and sons, who have emerged from the siege of Tripoli to express in the name of the Arab nation that they are not only protected by the UN flag, but also by their Egyptian brothers and French friends, to whom we extend our thanks. I also extend my thanks to the UN secretary general, the Security Council members, and the General Assembly members, who approved the flying of the UN flag on these ships." 'Arafat added: "Once again, I would like to say that I remembered a very dear thing to me when I landed in Port Said with my brother, the governor of the city. I remembered that I was a reserve officer in the Egyptian Army. I am proud of being a struggler in the Palestinian revolution and in my Arab nation. I say that we shoulder big responsibilities. We can motivate the Arab nation at this difficult time in order to establish real Arab unity which can take into consideration the genuine national Arab premises in order to be able to confront all our enemies, God willing, until victory."

Following his statement, and in reply to a question about the path he will take to reach the Al-Aqsa mosque, 'Arafat said: "My path is the one of all free and honest men. The UN Charter provides that all countries which face occupation and colonization may use all means to confront this colonization. It is my right, in accordance with the UN resolution, to use all means; however, I tell you that our main path to Palestine is our Arab unity." Asked about the effect of his visit to Egypt on his leadership of the PLO, 'Arafat said: "Generally speaking, what is important to me is that this visit will help Arab unity."

'Ali Comments on Talks With Reagan 21 Dec

NC212040 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1935 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Washington, 21 Dec (MENA) — At the White House this morning, President Ronald Reagan received Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The 30-minute meeting was attended by Egypt's Ambassador in Washington Dr Ashraf Ghurbal. In a statement after the meeting Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that he conveyed a message from President Mubarak to President Reagan. He added that they exchanged views on the Middle East situation and the efforts to solve the Lebanese issue to create a suitable atmosphere to set up the Lebanese unified and independent state without any foreign intervention, as well as the steadily growing relations between the two countries. Continuing his statement, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said: Our joint aim is to solve the Palestinian issue which is the core of the Middle East conflict, and President Reagan has reaffirmed his determination to continue his efforts to achieve peace in the region on the basis of his initiative of September 1982, he added.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said it is natural that Egypt and the United States are partners in the peace process and exchange views. We, he said, look forward to further joint efforts to achieve the desired peace and toward the United States' resuming its positive role as a full partner to achieve this objective.

The foreign minister expressed his thanks and appreciation to President Reagan for the initiative he took when he dispatched his personal envoy Donald Rumsfeld to Baghdad to normalize

the relations between the United States and Iraq. He added that this normalization would create further stability in the region. Asked about Egypt's position toward the strategic cooperation agreement between the United States and Israel, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: We do not oppose the relations between the two countries. Our concern, however, emanates from the possibilities that this strategic cooperation would affect the Middle East region and would obstruct the ongoing work for the sake of achieving peace in the area.

The foreign minister pointed out that Egypt has received assurances, including the 7 December message from President Reagan to President Husni Mubarak.

The message confirms that the U.S.-Israeli cooperation would never affect the U.S. determination to work for peace. The foreign minister said that Egypt is satisfied with these assurances.

Answering a question about steps Egypt believes should be taken by the United States following the departure of the Palestinian fighters from Lebanon, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that the United States must initiate further political action by way of dialogue with the Palestinians.

He expressed the conviction that the Palestinians in the next phase will focus on the political solution of the Palestinian problem. He added that the U.S. political action would encourage the Palestinians to enter the peace process side by side with King Husayn of Jordan.

In reply to another question, the foreign minister denied that Syria is obstructing the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue, saying:

We must encourage the Palestinians and Jordanians to continue their dialogue, because the interests of the Palestinians and Arabs are contingent upon the implementation of the resolutions adopted at the Arab summit in Fes concerning the settlement of the Middle East problem.

Mubarak Receives U.S. Congressional Delegation

NC211053 Cairo MENA in English 1020 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, Dec 21 (MENA) The U.S. Congressmen delegation left here today for home at the close of a 3-day visit. President Husni Mubarak has received the delegation and exchanged views on the Egyptian-U.S. relations.

Mubarak Delivers Anniversary Speech at Cairo University

NC211311 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0953 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Speech by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at Cairo University on the occasion of the university's 75th anniversary — live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear guests of Egypt, brother citizens: Today we meet with all humility and veneration at this glorious place of science to celebrate the diamond anniversary of the oldest modern university in Egypt and the whole Arab world. We greet this formidable bastion of knowledge — which is a great and honorable symbol of modern Egypt; an outstanding landmark in the pages of the Egyptian people's struggle for liberation and national dignity; and an embodiment of the Egyptian people's eagerness to maintain their cultural identity, intellectual originality, and belief that the freedom of thought is the fundamental base for any rational act of nationalism which matches the nobility of this nation and its ancient civilization.

The establishment of an Egyptian university on 31 December 1908 was a giant step by a great nation; a nation which pioneered the understanding of the universe and absorption of man's message on earth as a successor of God on this planet and maker of glory and civilization.

Perhaps the first thing that should be mentioned here is that the establishment of an Egyptian university coincided with the revival of the national movement. The intellectual revival represented one of the fundamental factors behind the all-embracing renaissance which was based on the deep sense of belonging to the homeland and loyalty for its soil, heritage, and aspirations; and the well-seated understanding of science's role in directing the popular movement and formulating the national goals.

This is how the university became as much a school for Egyptian nationalism as an institute for learning and disseminating knowledge. It is from this university that the leaders of the national struggle graduated side by side with the pioneers of the intellectual and literary revival and the genuises of physics and mathematics, who achieved a state of immortality through sincere effort, hard work, and extreme devotion in the search for knowledge, and full humility in the search for the truth. They became the best sons of the greatest people who ever lived. [applause]

It is a source of pride and admiration that this pioneering experiment was a purely popular initiative. It was not undertaken at the suggestion of the state's official departments and institutions and laid no burden nor responsibility on the state. It crystallized through individual efforts which soon expanded and gained increasing support among the conscious and cultured masses who believe that the advancement of nations depends on the efforts of their sons,regardless of their position and posts. Nationalism is, first of all a responsibility and not an ideological party or attempt to achieveposition and gains. However, it does sacrifice life and money for the sake of high examples and sublime principles. The citizen's dignity is an inalienable part of the homeland's dignity and glory. The Egyptian citizen can only live with dignity and pride if he helps to provide the homeland with power and glory, and puts his homeland's progress and advancement above his personal ambitions and goals.

The Egyptian people have been sincere with themselves and loyal in fulfilling their responsibility as when they voiced their slogan: "We die, long live Egypt." [Applause and cheers of "God is great, long live Egypt"] We cannot but bow in admiration and appreciation for this great national action undertaken by a faithful group of people sincere in their pledge to God, the homeland, and the people. This group realized that public service must rise above party ranks and differences when it is linked with

the homeland's high interests and people's basic demands, and must also be free of objectives, competition, and a desire for exploitation or obtaining benefits. Nationalism is a continuous giving and sacrifice. It is performance of duty before demanding one's rights. It is a readiness for initiative and collective unified moves. May all competitors take part and parties and groups compete within such a framework. No nation can advance if it is divided. No nation can achieve its aspirations and hopes if its sons seek their personal ends, submit to their whims and personal objectives, and travel along their own course seeking glory, money, and power withoutany regard for the homeland's interest or the people's future. The national entity must be lofty, deep-rooted, and based on strong foundations. This cannot be achieved through slogans and resounding statements, but can crystallize through good deeds and examples, and a readiness to transform ideology into a tangible fact, as well as through daily practices.

That great struggler, Mustafa Kamil, expressed these lofty, heartfelt ideals when he addressed the following sincere statements to the nation: Let the parties forget their divisions; let journalists neglect their differences; let hatred disappear into an abyss where no echo can be heard; let the nation join together to complete this great action and achieve this good and beneficial project.

That great Egyptian gave the homeland and nation a magnificent example of loyalty when he commanded his supporters not to hold a celebration in honor of him on the occasion of his return to the homeland after an absence abroad, during which he advocated the national cause. He suggested instead that they should turn their efforts toward the organization of a general subscription for the founding of the university. He said: The best gift I propose that you make to the dear homeland and Egyptian nation is that the committee which was formed to celebrate my return should call upon the entire nation and knock on the door of every Egyptian to establish a national college which would include the sons of the poor and rich on an equal basis and would provide the nation with able men.

Brother citizens, it was in this good spirit that the founding committee, which represented all the people's factions and inclinations was formed. It held its first meeting on 21 October 1906 at the home of Sa'd Zaghlul. It immediately engaged in its work with determination and humility despite the enormous obstacles which the foreign authorities raised and which the difficulties of making a start dictated because of the lack of a foundation on which to build, a groundwork on which to base its work, or a model to be followed in its organization and activity. That activity represented a pioneering, creative, difficult, and sincere effort, and loyalty to the people. This is how patriotism should be. This singles out Egyptian patriotism, which is an overflowing flood of continuous offering, self-denial, and a ceaseless stream of sacrifices; a daring defiance of difficulties and problems; a relentless confrontation of the greatest challenges; and a unique epic confidence in its steps, firmness on its feet, clearness of view, and nobleness of aim. Peace on the land of Egypt, which God has chosen as a cradle of civilization; a beacon for light and knowledge; a stronghold for the freedom of thought and beliefs; a lofty bastion for tolerance and coexistence and for ascent above rancor and trivialities; an example of fraternity and modesty; and a niche for justice, equality, and social insurance. All of us have the duty to hail this course, which is pregnant with hope, action, dreams, and tangible achievements in the real world. It is our duty to perish so that Egypt may live, work hard so that it may be happy, and stay vigilant so that it may remain safe.

Dear brothers: The Egyptian university has made great achievements since its establishment, despite the fact that it started with modest resources and capabilities. Events and experiences have taught us that the 1,000-mile journey begins with small steps as long as resolution and faith and hope live in our hearts, confidence and ability to have a clear, penetrating outlook exists in our minds, and our shoulders have the necessary strength to turn dreams into reality. The first students to join the ranks of the university in its early days in quest of learning and knowledge did not exceed 120. The number of Cairo University graduates has now reached 1,058,000 persons, including 106,482 who have obtained higher degrees — diplomas, masters, and doctorate degrees.

Those in charge of the university immediately realized the great mission it shoulders in linking civilizations, peoples, and cultures. They did not hesitate to seek the assistance of foreign professors, who enriched the intellectual and cultural life and became the connecting link between European thinking, with all its tributaries, and Islamic Arab thinking in Egypt. The German (Lizman) undertook the teaching of Semitic languages, and the Frenchman (Masinion) delivered lectures on philosophy. The Italian (Nellino) was charged with lecturing on the history of Arab astronomy. In fact,(Santilana) wrote a basic reference book on the history of Islamic schools of thought. Those thinkers came to the grand Al-Azhar Mosque to increase their knowledge and deepen their education of the literature and religion of the Islamic civilization. They delivered lectures at the Egyptian university at the same time the first Egyptian professors taught. Foremost of these pioneers were Isma'il Ra'fat, Hifni Nasif, Muhammad al-Khudari, Muhammad al-Mahdi, Ahmad Dayf, and Taha Husayn. Thus this noble institute combined nationalist affiliation with international thought and knowledge.

In the same way, the university realized and continues to realize that its responsibility for spreading education and culture are not limited to Egypt's political borders but extend to all parts of the Arab homeland and Africa. This is so because it was the first contemporary university established in this vital corner of the world. The university has and continues to fulfill its mission perfectly, regarding both the sending of professors to scientific institutes and research centers in these areas and opening its doors to students from the Arab world and Africa. Graduates among our Arab and African brothers totals 40,700. In addition, 11,450 graduates have been awarded higher degrees. Thus, the Cairo University has contributed to strengthening the bridges of cultural and educational links with the peoples who share our interests, goals, and fate.

On this occasion, we cannot forget that all the achievements which Cairo University has attained would not have been attained had it not been for the devotion of successive generations of venerable professors, whom we consider the unknown soldiers behind every progress which Egypt has achieved and the driving force in every step we have made. They were the bearers of the torches of knowledge and the fountain of educational and cul-

tural enlightenment in this age in which education has become a primary value that shapes our individual and social lives and determines man's role in the present and future. I would like to take this opportunity to extend a word of appreciation and esteem to the men and women of the Egyptian university. I address them as the vanguard of the class in whose views, advice, and experience the government takes pride. [applause]

There can never be any antagonism between the government and these vanguards, nor will the government be annoyed by their activities, or prevent them from engaging in public work. They are all required — I do not say called upon — to participate in public work in all its aspects. They are the best qualified to shoulder the mission and fulfill the trust. Those truly fear God, among his servants, who have knowledge. [Koranic verse].

You are required to evaluate the quality of education and culture in Egypt and to search for an applicable scientific method to raise the standard of education and improve the graduates' competence. We are not alone in facing this problem, but the most civilized and advanced people in the scientific and technological fields have this problem. This, however, does not exempt us from carrying out a comprehensive evaluation of the curricula, syllabi, and methods of teaching in the various stages of education and from submitting sound solutions to problems and areas of weakness and deficiency. This is because progress is a torrential current that requires constant action and development. There is no one more capable and worthy of this great deed than you.

You are also required to deepen the link with the broad base of students, so that they will regard you now and in the future not only as examples to be followed in the method of thinking, conduct, and consecration of education, but also as guides for them in finding the right path to serving the homeland, deepening their affiliation to it, and implanting the right values in their hearts. Thus, the deluge of material values, which dominate spiritual values and cultural roots, will be checked, and the features of a new society will be crystallized, a society that will achieve harmony and homogeneity between scientific and technological progress and safeguarding the cultural heritage and social roots, which have safeguarded the Egyptian people from the shakeups and setbacks that have buffeted many other peoples, protected their movement as they passed through successive stages of development, and characterized their struggle throughout the ages by humaneness, rejection of violence, and extremism.

We want our universities to participate on a wider scale in confronting the social and economic problems, and further unison with the masses in their daily lives and legitimate demands. The Cairo University was a pioneer in establishing specialized institutes and research centers, both in the physics and engineering fields, and in the humanities. Now that our problems have accumulated and their repercussions and vestiges have taken various forms, we are in dire need of an active and effective role by the university people to solve these problems by bridging theory and practice, and keeping away from abstract concepts that do not exist in the real world. My assessment was, and still is, that the governmental bodies are in dire need of assistance by specialized university professors in tackling many urgent problems. It behooves me to mention the problem of population explosion, overpopulated towns and cities, particularly Cairo and Alexandria, housing problems, the need for new cultural revival, the youths' issues, elimination of routine and bureaucracy, modernization of administration in government bodies and the public sector, the widespread trend to overconsume without comparable increase in production, and the phenomenon of overspending and extravagance. The ministries and bodies concerned have been advised to resort to universities whenever possible. It remains for our scientiists to respond to this appeal. I am certain that they will not slacken in fulfilling their task toward the homeland and their duty of being affiliated with it, because they are the elite and the most sincere and ardent in the homeland.

Dear brothers and sisters, the Arab people in Egypt have shouldered a special responsibility in promoting peace and maintaining stability in the Middle East and the African Continent. This has stemmed from a complete vision of the comprehensive meaning of national security. Therefore, the Egyptian people cannot live isolated from the events taking place in the area or hesitate to adopt firm and effective stances whenever the matter is connected with high interests and sublime goals and linked with world peace and the welfare of its neoples. This is their chosen role and their immortal mission.

Man observes the deteriorating situation in the area with great sadness, grief, and anxiety. We are in dire need, at this serious junction, of protecting the peace march against the storms threatening it, of destroying the vicious circle of terrorism, sabotage, and bloodshed, and of restoring the feeling of stability, aspirations, and hope. Egypt has never hesitated to adopt steps and make the necessary contacts to stop the deterioration in the situation and to turn it into the sphere of rationalism and wisdom. Our masses rightly and with full awareness of the gravity of the historical responsibility ask whether this is not the time for our Arab nation to realize that its survival and deliverance lie in its unity and cohesion. What more do we need in order to put our great strategic goals above differences, maneuvers, and seditions? Why should we fail when others have been able to use various efforts and diverse means to arrive at one goal. These efforts should be an element of strength, not a source of weakness and defect. The state of fragmentation and division from which we are suffering causes our friends in various parts of the world to be hesitant and perplexed when they do not find a unified Arab stance that can help them to formulate their policy and to define their course. When will we realize that it is our duty to make it easy for our friends to back us and to support our stances and our causes? Are we fully aware of the dimensions of the challenges and dangers facing us? Our pan-Arab entity is in the balance. We have no choice but to accept the challenge and rise up to the level of the responsibility. Egypt will remain faithful to its commitment and loyal to its principles, believing in its mission, and strong by its firmness. God is great, long live Egypt. God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Salim Conveys Condolences to Moroccan King

NC221100 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1053 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA) — Presidential Assistant Mamduh Salim left Cairo for Morocco at noon today. Before leaving,

Salim said he will convey to King Hassan II President Husni Mubarak's condolences on the death of the King's brother.

Ash-Sharif Reviews 21 December Cabinet Meeting

NC221009 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0905 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA) — During its meeting under Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, the Cabinet discussed the events in the Lebanese problem, the departure of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and PLO members from Tripoli, the efforts made by the Egyptian political and diplomatic leadership to secure their departure, and the contacts made in this respect with the U.S., Israeli, and French Governments. This was stated by Safwat ash-Sharif, minister of state for information, following last night's Cabinet meeting. Ash-Sharif said the Cabinet reviewed the evaluations of the PLO's future strategy regarding a solution for the Palestinian problem. Ash-Sharif pointed out that Egypt supports a Jordanian-PLO rapprochement along the lines drafted last April by the two parties. Ash-Sharif made it clear that Egypt is ready to participate in any negotiations regarding the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and falling within a comprehensive solution for the Palestinian problem, if such [Jordanian-PLO] rapprochement is realized.

In his statement today, Ash-Sharif said the Cabinet reviewed the visit by Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to the United States. This visit falls within the Egyptian move to confront the strategic agreement between the United States and Israel. The Egyptian leadership has given its view on this agreement and this was followed by a serious and active move in this respect with the United States. Ash-Sharif pointed out the UN General Assembly's resolution which tallies with Egypt's point of view regarding the condemnation of the U.S.-Israeli strategic accords. Ash-Sharif noted that 'Ali is carrying a personal message from President Mubarak to U.S. President Reagan. The message expounds the Egyptian point of view regarding the [U.S.-Israeli] agreement as well as Egypt's view regarding the necessity of an active move toward a prompt solution of the Lebanese and Palestinian issues. Ash-Sharif said the Cabinet reviewed in detail the current contacts between Egypt and the EC to activate moves for the Middle East question, be it the Lebanese or the Palestinian question.

Dr Butrus Ghali reviewed the results of the negotiations that were held during the Yugoslav foreign minister's visit to Egypt, during which it was agreed to increase joint action for strengthening the nonaligned policy, particularly after Egypt has been elected to the Nonaligned Movement's coordination bureau.

The negotiations have shown an identity of Egyptian and Yugoslav views, thus providing an impetus for settling many international and Middle East questions. It was also agreed that the joint Yugoslav-Egyptian committee will convene during the next few weeks in Belgrade and that the military and the economic committees will meet during January in Cairo. Ash-Sharif added that Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din said that a joint meeting of the Cabinet and the NDP parliamentary body will be held on 8 January to discuss the most important foreign and domestic political questions, subjects relating to the legislative plan, and the move by the executive leaderships to meet with the bases of the masses in coordination between members of the People's Assembly, the ministers, and members of the NDP Secretariat. The Cabinet reviewed the points raised during the political meetings which were held in various governorates as well as the masses' problems.

The prime minister directed the minister of Cabinet affairs and the ministers to adopt the necessary measures for solving the problems raised and defining the subjects needing further study, so as to clarify what action was taken in order to outline this at the next meeting of the ministers with the masses in the governorates beginning the last week of December and the first week of January.

Source Denies Egyptian 'Warplanes' in Sudan

NC220656 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2342 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 21 Dec (MENA) — A senior responsible Egyptian source has said that Egypt has no warplanes in Sudan and that there are no Egyptian military forces there. The newspaper *AL-AHRAM* reports in its Thursday issue that this statement came in reply to the ETHIOPIAN NEWS AGENCY's report from Addis Ababa that Egyptian warplanes have arrived in Khartoum on a mission connected with southern Sudan.

AL-AHRAM Views Israeli Shelling of Tripoli

NC220802 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 22 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline: "An Act of Torture", today's *AL-AHRAM* editorial comments on the intermittent Israeli shelling of Tripoli port which took place during the preparations to evacuate 'Arafat and his forces. The paper says this shelling seemed like a way of killing time on the part of the Israeli forces. These forces wanted to amuse themselves during a period of military quiet by keeping their fingers warm on the trigger. The paper says there was no reason whatsoever for the bizarre obscurity in which Israel wrapped itself during the departure process. This obscurity only reflects a mood of frivolity and a desire to ridicule the fate of thousands of men.

This situation, the paper says, called for a definite expression of intentions; instead, Israel kept fluctuating. Israel either announced its desire not to let 'Arafat and his forces have a safe departure; or kept a silent and dissatisfied position; or announced its eagerness to spare the foreign ships which were assigned to ferry the [Palestinian] forces any damage, while it continued to mine Tripoli's port. This attitude can only be described as frivolous toward the international community and damaging to the efforts to carry out the evacuation. The world and the countries participating in the evacuation saw this happening.

The paper adds: It was reported that Israel was extremely pleased to delay the evacuation process in a bid to permit a resumption of the fighting between the dissidents and 'Arafat's forces. Israel publicized such a venomous intention. This inten-

tion contradicts every convention and political astuteness; it reveals an extraordinary form of hatred which is not usually pronounced by any responsible state even if this state existed [as received]. In this same vein came the desire, which Israel also declared, to inflict military defeat on 'Arafat and his forces before they left Tripoli. This means that Israel wanted to cast its vindictive shadow around them until the last moment while they were suffering this time by non-Israeli hands. The paper concludes by stressing that this horrid use of 'Arafat's tribulation, with all the publicity and show of Israeli military strength involved, is plain evidence calling for international regret over the torture intentionally mounted by Israel in order to humiliate its enemies during their tribulations, for no reason.

Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1,317

JN211701 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1636 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Dec (INA) — An Iraqi military communique says that new groups of Iranians have sought refuge with our forces in the northern sector of the front and that they have been evacuated to the rear lines of the front. Communique No 1,317 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command in Baghdad tonight adds that the Iraqi forces attacked Iranian positions in the area east of Basra and in the Maysan sector, scoring effective hits. Enemy positions were seen in flames. In the northern sector, our forces captured a quantity of serviceable weapons and equipment. The communique further adds that Iranian artillery shells fell on Mandali and its suburbs today, and that a number of civilian establishments were damaged. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,317 issued by the Armed Forces General Command: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces are continuing their operations against the spiteful Iranian regime. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. One of our forward units fired on enemy positions opposite Iraqi positions in the area east of Basra, scoring effective hits. The enemy positions were seen in flames, and one infantry position was destroyed.

2. New groups of Iranians who wanted to escape from the oppression and barbarism of Khomeyni and his bloody regime sought refuge with our forward units in the northern sector of the front. They were safely evacuated to the rear. In another area of the same sector, our forces captured a quantity of serviceable weapons and equipment.

3. One of our forward units fired on an enemy vehicle it sighted opposite its positions in the Maysan sector, setting the vehicle on fire and destroying it.

4. The Iranian enemy's artillery shelled Mandali and its suburbs today, damaging a number of civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 December 1983

Two 'Naval Targets' Destroyed 22 Dec

JN221133 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Dec (INA) — Iraqi fighter aircraft and naval units this morning destroyed two enemy naval targets and hit a third target belonging to a group of Iranian naval targets in the Khowr-e Musa Channel, in the northeastern Arab Gulf.

This was stated by an Iraqi military spokesman to INA at noon today. The spokesman said that the Iraqi air and naval forces took the Iranian targets by surprise as they were leaving Bandar Khomeyni and succeeded in destroying two targets while the other naval targets fled, leaving behind the two destroyed naval targets which were ablaze.

The spokesman added that the Iraqi fighter aircraft and naval units attacked and hit a third Iranian naval target which was on its way to Bandar Khomeyni. The enemy tried to rescue what remained of its hit and destroyed targets, but all its attempts failed completely.

The spokesman stressed that all Iraqi fighter aircraft and naval units returned safely to base.

The spokesman reiterated Iraq's warning on approaching or entering the prohibited zone in the Arab Gulf defined in previous communiques issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command and in previous statements by the Iraqi military spokesman.

Romania's Ion Nicolae Continues Visit

Meets Saddam Husayn

JN211328 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu. The message dealt with the development of bilateral relations in both countries' interests. Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Ion Nicolae delivered the message to President Saddam Husayn during their meeting this morning. They also discussed the developed relations between the two countries and the situation in the region.

The Romanian deputy prime minister stressed Romania's support and appreciation for Iraq's peaceful stances and initiatives to end the Iraqi-Iranian war. RCC member and Trade Minister Hasan 'Ali, the president's secretary, and the Romanian ambassador in Baghdad attended the meeting.

Ramadan Meets Nicolae

JN211752 Baghdad Domstic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, today received Ion Nicolae, Romanian deputy prime minister, and his delegation. During the meeting they reviewed relations between Iraq and Romania and agreed to follow up what was discussed during the first deputy prime minister's recent visit to Romania.

The Romanian deputy prime minister expressed his pleasure at meeting with President Leader Saddam Husayn and his pride in both the development of bilateral relations and in the positive results of Taha Yasin Ramadan's visit to Bucharest, results that added strong and expanded foundations for areas of future cooperation in all fields. The Romanian ambassador in Baghdad attended the meeting.

Briefs

New SRV Ambassador—Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister and RCC member, received here today Tran Van (Tanh), the new Vietnamese ambassador in Baghdad. They reviewed the good, developing relations between the two countries and means of expanding their cooperation and friendship in all fields. [Text][Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 21 Dec 83 JN]

Papers View Reagan's Middle East Statements
JN221010 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0520 GMT 22 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Reagan and the Tinderbox," *AR-RA'Y* says: At his news conference yesterday, President Reagan described our region as a tinderbox. He also said that this region has strategic importance for his country and its allies, and, therefore, he cannot disregard what is taking place in this area.

But the U.S. President ignored those who are planting explosives around this tinderbox, as well as their essence and nature. He preferred to hint that the region will be a target of U.S. scrutiny. This means the United States is determined to continue creating events in the Middle East. This situation arouses concern because it is known that the U.S. Administration and Israel are the ones who charge the region with explosives. This is represented in the U.S. support for Israeli aggression and its backing with money, arms, and political help and by the declared alliance between Israel and the U.S. Administration.

AR-RA'Y says: Reagan's talk about the so-called strategic importance, which links the region to his country and its allies, will not change the fact that all the various plans will not help in containing the Arab region under U.S., Western, or any other umbrella. It is the region's peoples, much more than the U.S. Administration, who are interested in defining their strategic relations. Any outside party, and especially the U.S. Administration, which did not hesitate to become an ally of the Israeli aggression and to turn the region's issue and stability into a card or invoice, cannot impose specific relations over these peoples.

Under the headline "U.S. Commitment to Peace," *AD-DUSTUR* says: It is without a doubt that the many phrases which Reagan devoted to talk about our region at this news conference affirm the importance of the Middle East, not only to the Western countries, as the U.S. President said, but also to the peoples of the region and the entire world. Hence, this inflamed region calls for immediate action and good intentions to attain peace, which is considered the utmost priority in this burning part of the world.

Had it not been for the great number of contradictions included in U.S. pledges and the oscillation and procrastination which have been characteristics of U.S. policy in the region, it would have been possible to consider the U.S. President's pledges and commitments toward peace, as he was describing the dangerous situation in the Middle East, as a new and serious U.S. trend toward the region's various issues and conflicts.

AD-DUSTUR adds: The evidence of the oscillating and two-faced U.S. stands is Reagan's defense of the U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement, which it does not consider as an obstacle to peace. This agreement was condemned and dneounced recently by the world through the UN General Assembly. Although the President is fully aware of the dangerous situation in the region created by this agreement and the problems it has added to the existing historical complications, he followed the track of his oscillating and obscure policies, and said he will work to strengthen his country's relations with the moderate Arab countries, as if that agreement does not harm or threaten these countries.

Radio Urges PLO Adopt 'Rational Course'
JN211818 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The UN General Assembly concluded its 38th session yesterday after issuing five resolutions on the Palestinian issue. The resolutions call for isolating the Zionist entity internationally because of its repressive racist practices against citizens in the occupied Arab territories and for returning the Palestinians' cultural identity.

The General Assembly denounced the Zionist entity's annexing of Arab Jerusalem and their making it an official capital. It also denounced the U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement because it will reinforce Israel's military capability. By a majority of 101 votes, in its fifth and final resolution, the General Assembly called for convening an international peace conference to discuss the situation in the Arab region and the possibility of establishing a peaceful and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Zionist conflict. These resolutions, which won the support of between 85 and 140 countries, undoubtedly represent in themselves a step in the right direction toward achieving a political solution to the Middle East conflict.

Also yesterday, the PLO leadership regained its freedom of movement and preserved the independence of its decisionmaking by leaving Tripoli under the UN flag, with French naval and air protection. This departure has international implications which no one can underestimate, particularly since the international organization allowed the departure to be accomplished under its flag, moral standing, and ethical responsibility. All of this took place while Israeli forces and the Syrian and Libyan regimes' forces were intensifying their sea, land, and air siege around the [Palestine Liberation] Organization's leadership and fighters in Tripoli.

During the recent siege in Tripoli, the organization undoubtedly realized the futility of the military option in solving the issue, and even the impossibility of doing this as a result of developments in the situation in the region, particularly in the Lebanese arena. The organization fought heroically during the sieges of Beirut and Tripoli in order to preserve its freedom of movement and its independent stand. Today more than ever before, it is called upon to have the courage and valor to outline a rational course that will lead to a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian issue.

When 84 countries in the international organization call for the international isolation of the Zionist entity and when 101 countries call for an international peace conference, there is more than ample opportunity to seriously consider adopting a stand that is in harmony with international will and one that does not disappoint the countries that announced such resolutions during the recent Tripoli siege.

This victory for the cause at the international organization should be an incentive for the PLO leadership to make a decision that will reinforce this victory and pave the way for a new international move to end the conflict in the region and settle the Palestinian issue. His Majesty King Husayn noted such stands in his speech before the European Parliament last week when he asked the international community, through Europe, to meet its responsibility in solving the Palestinian issue.

Papers on PLO Departure, New U.S. Stand

JN220920 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 22 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "So That the Arabs Will not Repeat Themselves," *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* says: In order not to forget, and so that the Arabs do not repeat themselves in their inability to determine the course of events and their repercussions on the pan-Arab situation which has been controlled by elements of weakness, we must quickly and simply assess the period between the two Palestinian departures from Lebanon — departures from the Palestine cause, the crux of the Middle East conflict.

The first Palestinian departure took place on 30 August 1982 from Beirut. A few hours later, on 1 September, U.S. President Reagan presented his famous initiative. This initiative completely failed to gain Israeli acceptance or proof of Washington's credibility or provide the bases for its success.

Amid U.S. optimism and Israeli intransigence at that time, the Fes summit conference convened and produced an Arab peace initiative which, despite all its positive elements and international support, achieved nothing in the Arab region.

Following the first departure, Israel and the United States wagered on the end of the PLO's ability to lead the Palestinian people. But the PLO regained its political and military role and foiled the Israeli wager, creating a new dimension in the scheme of liquidation drawn up by Tel Aviv.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B continues: Thus, the scheme returned to square one once again, but the scenario and roles changed. The dissident movement within Fatah and the PLO emerged. Then came the massing of the resistance on the contact lines with the enemy. The fighters were pushed from Al-Biqa' to Al-Hirmil by Arab hands. Then they were pushed to Nahr al-Barid, Al-Baddawi, and then to Tripoli as fiercely as the Israelis had pushed them in southern Lebanon. Then came the Tripoli battle, and on 20 December 1983 the second departure from Lebanon took place.

Only 1 day after the second departure came statements in Washington about new U.S. moves. This was asserted by President Reagan himself at a news conference in what looked like a new U.S. initiative similar to the famous September initiative, which was also preceded by talk about new peace initiatives in the Middle East.

Yesterday, 1 day after the second departure from Tripoli, the Arab League officially announced that the Arabs had agreed to convene the Arab summit conference in Riyadh on 31 March, that is, in 3 months. This is the same as the interval between the first Palestinian departure and the second Fes summit conference which produced the Arab peace plan.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B concludes: We do not believe that the concordance of events, dates, and their tragic and sanguinary repercussions on the Palestine cause in particular and the Arab nation in general is coincidental. The Arabs must not overlook the significance of this concordance of events.

AKHBAR AL-USBU' writes about the future of the PLO. The paper says: Contrary to what the parties to the conspiracy against the Palestinian people expected, the departure of the PLO and its fighters from Tripoli has asserted the victory of the Palestinian will and its rejection of containment and subservience. Thus, it is clear that the conspiracy failed to destroy Palestinian legitimacy, just as the war of annihiliation against the Palestinians failed. The result proved the dissidents' failure in their attempts to sell out independent Palestinian decision-making to those who provide them with money and arms.

The departure is a prelude to a new stage of Palestinian action which will be crystalized in light of the moves on which the various Palestinian institutions and organizations will agree to regain momentum in all political and military dimensions of the Palestinian stands.

JORDAN TIMES on 'Arafat-Jordan Relations

JN220807 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22-23 Dec 83 p 4

[Editorial: "New Scope For Partnership"]

[Text] Almost everybody is speculating on what PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat would do in the post-Tripoli era: whether he would come to Jordan to resume his dialogue here on joint political moves or get bogged down again in reconciliation efforts with the Syrians, or just do nothing substantial for the moment to solve the Palestinian problem.

On numerous occasions during and before his siege in Tripoli, 'Arafat said he would come back to Amman to resume the talks with His Majesty the King on forging a common stand on a Middle East political settlement. The talks were suspended by the Jordanian Government last April for the failure to reach an agreement with the PLO on what should be done next to solve the Palestinian problem. If he does come here — and we think his return is inevitable — 'Arafat will find in Jordan an atmosphere a bit different from that he felt in April.

Jordan now is much more keen on and convinced that the right way to tackle the Palestinian problem is through holding an international conference in which the Soviet Union would participate alongisde the U.S. and other parties. This option has long been a PLO demand, and 'Arafat would find it easier to reach accord with Jordan on this point.

The kingdom feels that the Reagan plan still has its appeal as a vehicle towards achieving a lasting settlement in the Middle East. If 'Arafat would want to give the U.S. one more chance to re-establish its credibility as mediator in the area, Jordan doubtless would want to exert more pressure in order to secure a more solid commitment towards working for peace from the Americans. Arafat's readiness to compromise in his respect would greatly strengthen Jordan's hands to make progress — but not from without Arab and U.N. resolutions on the problem.

Following the revival of the U.S.-Israel "strategic cooperation" talk Jordan seems also ready to consider in concert with the Palestinians and other Arabs other ways and means to confront the Israeli threat in case joint moves towards a political settlement come to a head. The revival of the "Eastern Front" for which the PLO leadership has been striving, could be one option. Working jointly for Arab solidarity to form a new front agaisnt U.S.-Israeli collaboration is another. And so on.

It is then in the context of keeping all options alive for a lasting joint Jordanian-Palestinian partnership that 'Arafat's expected visit to Jordan, in the post-Tripoli era, will be most productive and promising. The occasion, in the present sea of trouble, should serve as the single most important chance to get things forward — one way or the other.

Economic Meetings Begin With Egyptians

JN211643 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Meetings of the Egyptian-Jordanian joint economic committee began in Amman today. The first session was chaired by Walid 'Asfur, minister of trade and industry, and Dr Mustafa as-Sa'id, Egyptian minister of economy and foreign trade. The two sides expressed eagerness to develop economic and trade relations, to promote these relations to serve the interests of the two peoples, and to establish these relations on sound foundations in order to serve the Arab nation's aim of building a unified Arab economy.

During the committee's first meeting, Dr as-Sa'id conveyed greetings from His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to His Majesty King Husayn. He said that his excellency fully appreciates and is proud of His Majesty King Husayn.

Badran Meets Egyptian Minister

JN211310 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Amman — Prime Minister Mudar Badran received Dr Mustafa as-Sa'id, Egyptian minister of economy and foreign trade, at his office this morning. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged opinions and reviewed a number of issues of common interest in the trade and economic fields.

Walid 'Asfur, minister of industry and trade, also attended the meeting.

Ministry Spokesman on Unemployment, Expatriates

JN211126 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Dec 83 p 3

[By Ara Voskian]

[Text] Amman — Jordan will see clearer cases of unemployment in the forthcoming year, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Labour Taysir 'Abd al-Jabir said Monday.

In an interview with the *JORDAN TIMES*, Dr. 'Abd al-Jabir said: "Although there have been some figures about Jordanian job seekers, we still do not feel that unemployment is a serious problem now. But very soon, maybe next year, it could become increasingly so.

"In order to avoid such a problem, we, as many countries do, are trying to limit the number of unemployed foreign workers who simply do not have jobs or who have finished their contracts in Jordan", he added.

Almost one quarter of the total workforce in Jordan consists of foreigners, he said adding that foreign labour is estimated to total 120,000 in all sectors out of a workforce of about 500,000 people in Jordan.

"I believe the Ministry of Labour, with other government agencies, should follow a strict policy on importing foreign labour," said Dr. 'Abd al-Jabir. "We have to organise the labour market in a different way."

Concerning Egyptian workers who are not required to obtain work or residence permits, the labour under-secretary said: "I think this policy has to be reconsidered because of its impact on the jobs pool in Jordan.

Because of the lower salaries they (the Egyptians) are accepting, they will undercut Jordanians in almost every job available."

According to Dr 'Abd al-Jabir, the economic conditions in Jordan has changed when compared to the late 1970s and the early 1980s. This is due to the economic slowdown in the region and its impact on Jordan, he said.

Due to the allocation of less funds for projects than was originally envisaged in the develpment plan, the need for workers is less than was expected.

"With the lower investment in the 1981-1985 five-year-plan and the slower rate of economic activity in Jordan, there will be much less need for foreign workers," Dr. 'Abd al-Jabir said. He added that "accordingly we are revising our regulations towards foreign workers."

The ministry is considering adopting a list of measures in order to revise the regulations concerning foreign labourers, something which is expected to be implemented early next month.

There are two categories of foreign workers in Jordan according to Dr 'Abd al-Jabir. In the first category are those who come to Jordan on contract with a specific company. Some of these workers tend to stay on in Jordan and accept another job but with lower wages.

It is also profitable for the contractors who brought them to Jordan in the first place, to discharge them here so as to avoid paying the return air ticket.

The other category are those foreign workers who come to work in the field of agriculture. After arriving in Jordan some of these workers shift to other sectors of the economy.

In both these categories the foreign workers compete with Jordanian workers who are seeking employment in similar occupations.

"We do not accept that any one should be permitted to transfer from agriculture to any other sector," said Dr 'Abd al-Jabir.

"Those who come to work in agriculture should stay in that sector or they must leave the country."

According to the under secretary, next year's government budget will have less job openings in Jordan. Apart from the skilled and unskilled workers who will be seeking jobs there will be a large influx of university, community college and secondary school graduates onto the labour market.

Jordan is one of the few examples in the world where we have a two-way flow of migrant labour, Dr 'Abd al-Jabir said.

Eighty-five per cent of our manpower abroad is concentrated in the Arab Gulf countries, he explained. These, according to the under-secretary, are not considered as part of a brain drain. "We consider it as a sign of healthy cooperation."

According to the information available at the Ministry of Labour, there is a noticable percentage of women graduates from universities and community colleges who are seeking employment.

For example among those registered as architects for jobs in the civil service commission, 62 percent are women, he said.

"We have to devise a special programme to help women obtain employment becuse of this noticeable increase in demand," Dr. 'Abd al-Jabir said, adding that "this tendency will become a pattern in the coming years."

Reportage on French Headquarters, Hotel Bombings

Casualty Toll Update

NC211821 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1750 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] According to the latest security reports in hand about the casualty figure at the French post, there are 8 dead and about 30 wounded. Several surrounding buildings have collapsed. The minister of justice and his wife were passing at the time and received minor injuries. Shortly before 1830 this evening, an explosion occurred at the Dushaylah Stadium where the headquarters of a company of the French contingent of the Multinational Force is. Latest reports indicate a number of killed and wounded. The French spokesman confirmed the explosion by telephone this evening after the incident but was unable to give details about casualties. Ambulances rushed to the scene where [words indistinct].

At the same time, another explosion occurred near the Marble Tower Hotel on Al-Hamra' Street. Rescue teams say so far 4 are known to have been killed and 12 wounded. The search continues under the rubble.

At 0515 this morning, two RPG's and some bursts of automatic fire were directed at the French military post at Al-Awza's Street, a few hundred yards from the French contingent headquarters at the ambassador's residence. According to the contingent spokesman, the French paratroopers returned the fire immediately. They suffered no casualties, thanks to the new security measures. Some reports say that a woman was wounded.

Army Command Statement

NC211927 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Telephone dispatch from the editorial room at the National Agency for Information — live]

[Excerpt] The Army Command issued the following statement a short time ago:

At 1830 on 21 December a driver stopped a truck loaded with explosives on a street parallel to Dushaylah Stadium. He detonated the truck and then escaped in a gray Volvo waiting nearby. The explosion caused the collapse of a building occupied by evacuees and in the killing and wounding of several persons.

The Army Command requests that all citizens knowing anything about the Volvo cars or the drivers who participated in the bombing telephone the operations room in Beirut with their information at 382251 or 393401.

Rescue Work Continuing

NC220640 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Rescue work and clearing of rubble resumed this morning in the Dushaylah Stadium area where a truck loaded with 1,200 kilograms of TNT exploded yesterday. The explosion destroyed a number of buildings, most important of which was the 3d French unit command headquarters. The latest reports indicate that the explosion resulted in the deaths of nine people, including a French paratrooper. However, civil defense sources now fear that the number of dead will rise. Civil defense teams are awaiting the arrival of vehicles and equipment to complete the rescue operation.

Security sources estimate that more than 100 persons were wounded and added that 2 persons suspected of being associated with the incident have been detained. Moreover, the search continues for the Volvo believed to have carried the driver of the truck that was detonated.

Death Toll at 9

NC212057 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Rubble removal and rescue operations continue at the explosion site near the French contingent headquarters between Dushayla Stadium and Damascus Road. Security reports now indicate that the death toll has risen to 9, including 1 French paratrooper, while the number of wounded exceeds 100.

Minister, Wife Wounded

NC211739 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1720 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Rubble removal resulting from the truck explosion on Damascus Road is continuing. We have learned that Information Minister Roger Shaykhani and his wife were wounded while passing close to the site of the explosion. They were moved to Al-Barbir Hospital. Hospital management has informed us that the wounds of Minister Shaykhani and his wife do not call for concern. Earlier reports said that very heavy material damage has been sustained in the area over a distance of approximately 300 meters from the site of the incident.

Leave Hospital After Treatment

NC212038 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Approximately 1,200 kg of explosives went off in a truck on the road parallel to Dushaylah Stadium in front of the French contingent headquarters, causing military and civilian casualties in addition to enormous material damage. The explosion opened an approximately 4-meter deep and 6-meter long hole in the ground.

Minister Roger Shaykhani and his wife left the hospital following treatment of wounds sustained as a result of the explosion.

In regard to the second explosion which occurred in the Al-Hamra' area, it has transpired that it took place at the bar of the Marble Tower Hotel near the Napoleon Hotel. An unidentified Sudanese national was killed and four other unidentified persons wounded.

Reportage on Groups Claiming Responsibility

'Black Palm' Identified

NC211730 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1718 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Just before releasing our news bulletin, an anonymous person called the Voice of Lebanon a short while ago claiming membership in the Black Palm Organization [Munazzamat al-Kaff al-Aswad] which he said is responsible for the two explosions at 1830 today at the French [contingent] headquarters. However, the Voice of Lebanon official who received the call said that the caller's accent is not Lebanese.

Islamic Group Claims Responsibility

NC220830 Paris AFP in English 0813 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Beirut, Dec 22 (AFP) — The Islamic Jihad Movement today claimed responsibility for the truck bomb blast at a French military post here yesterday in which at least 10 people were killed and 28 injured.

A telephone call to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in Beirut said the organisation gave "French and American forces 10 days to quit Lebanese territory, failing which there will be a veritable earthquake beneath their feet".

Second Jihad Message

LD220920 Paris Domestic Service in French 0900 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Excerpts] In a telephone call to the AFP office in Beirut, the Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for yesterday's attack against a French military post. The Islamic Jihad has already claimed responsibility for many attacks in Beirut against the French and American contingents. The anonymous caller, who phoned the AFP office this morning, gave France and the United States 10 days to leave Lebanon. He added that his movement included Lebanese Muslims who want to establish an Islamic republic in Lebanon through violent means.

U.S. Marine Patrol Under Fire; 1 Wounded

NC211659 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1655 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] A U.S. Marine patrol in Beirut in 'Ayn al-Muraysah was fired on by a silencer at 1700. One of the Marines sustained a slight wound to the arm.

Fire On Second Marine Position

NC220635 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0628 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Marines' positions in Al-Awza'i came under a burst of gunfire this morning. The Marines, who returned the fire, reportedly sustained no casualties.

Israeli's Overfly Al-Biqa'; Draw Syrian Fire

NC211314 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Israeli military aircraft continued to overfly Al-Biqa' this afternoon following the Israeli air raid launched against Shaykh 'Abdallah Barracks and its perimeter in Ba'labakk, which is occupied by armed men. Syrian air defenses fired missiles at the Israeli aircraft.

IDF Patrol in Sidon Comes Under Gunfire

NC220833 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Gunfire opened on an Israeli patrol at 0730 in Boulevard Maruf Sad in Sidon. The Israeli forces cordoned off the area and cut the road at the southern access of Sidon; the road was reopened at 0900. No details are available on Israeli casualties.

Dayr al-Qamar Evacuees Convoy Fired At

NC220824 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Security sources say that gunfire was opened on a convoy of evacuees from Dayr al-Qamar at 0930 this morning while passing through Kafr Him in the Ash-Shuf. Jirjis Rashid, his son Fadi, and his mother Dalilah were wounded.

Socialists Violate 2d Cease-Fire Agreement

NC211603 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Junblattist gunmen and their collaborators have thus far been violating the second cease-fire agreement which was declared at approximately 1730. Shells continue to rain on Lebanese Army positions in Dahr al-Wahsh, Suq al-Gharb, Qurs al-Mudawwar, 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, Qabr Shmun, and Kayfun. Shells also hit residential areas on the approaches to Bsus and 'Arayya which in turn prompted the Army to return the fire in defense of the citizens. Security sources indicate that the Army scored direct hits on the ranks of the Palestinian gunmen who sided with Junblatt's men in their attack.

Army Positions in Mountain Under Shelling

NC211804 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1744 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] We have just received the following security report:

Lebanese Army positions in Ra's al-Jabal, Suq al-Gharb, Dahr al-Wahsh, 'Ayn as-Sayyidah, Btut, and Kayfun are now being subjected to violent artillery shelling from the Palestinian and Junblattist gunmen's positions in Duhur al-'Ibadiyah, 'Alayh, and 'Aytat. Regarding the explosion at the French contingent headquarters, a large number of wounded have been removed to hospitals for treatment of minor wounds.

Security Situation Erupts in Mountain Axes

NC212000 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] The security situation tonight witnessed a wide-scale eruption in the mountain axes. A security source said the Army's positions in 'Ayn Ksur have been coming under artillery and RPG fire since 1955.

The Army's positions in Suq al-Gharb are the target of 120mm shells, and its positions in 'Ayn as-Sayyidah are being subjected to concentrated tank fire. A security source reported a short time ago that Army positions in Qurs al-Mudawwar came under antiarmor fire at 2045. The Al-Husn citadel came under RPG fire.

In the south, a security source said an RPG shell was fired at 1730 this afternoon at the Israeli military governor at Sidon's Government House. The shell exploded in the air. No casualties have been reported.

More on Security Situation

NC220920 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GM 22 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The confrontation with the Israeli occupation is continuing in the south in the military and civilian spheres: Members of the Lebanese national resistance last night carried out an operation in As-Sarafand during which a number of enemy soldiers were hit. They also carried out an operation at noon yesterday against an Israeli enemy patrol on the Ad-Duwayr crossroad, killing and wounding a number of Israeli soldiers. A military vehicle was damaged following a 10-minute clash.

A third operation was directed against the Israeli military governor's headquarters in Sidon's Government House when a rocket was fired at it followed by machinegun fire.

At the same time, the occupation forces continued the campaigns of detentions and house raids in Harat Sayda. Some detainees were identified as relatives of Sidon's judge.

In (Kushur), enemy soldiers detained the town's teachers. In the District of Tyre, theoccupation forces launched detention campaigns in Al-M'alliyah, Al-Burghuliyah, Kunin, Harat Sur, and Ra's al-'Ayn.

In another development, enemy bulldozers uprooted citrus trees in the Al-Ghabah Grove and confiscated the keys to roughly 30 stores.

It was noticed on Al-'Aqbiyah road that the occupation forces vacated their military post in Bustan as-Sabtiyyah.

A sit-in was staged yesterday in 'Adlun as a response to these practices in which popular delegations from neighboring villages and southern religious and political personalities participated. The town's imam delivered an address in which he affirmed that resistance to the enemy begins with the unity of ranks and added that Israel is eliminating itself through its actions in Lebanon.

Lebanese Communist Sees U.S. Invasion of Syria

LD172012 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 1800 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Excerpts] In Oporto today, a radio staff reporter covering the 10th congress of the Portuguese Communist Party — now in its third and penultimate day — interviewed the delegate from the Lebanese Communist Party. Here is a report by Antonio Capinha.

(Nadim 'Abd as-Samad) said: [Begin recording in French with superimposed Portuguese translation] After 'Arafat's departure, we hope talks will begin between the various Palestinian parties aimed at regaining unity in their struggle. [end recording]

('Abd as-Samad) accused the United States of abandoning what was supposed to be a purely peace-keeping mission of its forces in the Lebanon, and adopting an aggressive attitude. He said an invasion of Syria by the United States is a possibility. [Words indistinct] but what is sure, he said, is that the United States and Israel have made a deal on strategy so that the Israeli troops in Lebanon will be replaced by U.S. combat troops in order to carry out an act of aggression against Syria.

Islamic Unification Movement Radio Revealed

NC211948 Beirut AN-NAHAR in Arabic 20 Dec 83 p 7

[May Dahir report from Tripoli]

[Excerpt] In the span of 1 year, and with the presence of Palestinian forces and their leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] in the city [of Tripoli], an extremist Islamic movement appeared. It is the Islamic "Unification Movement" and is headed by Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, who is known as Amir at-Tawhid [the prince of unification]. This movement is making its voice heard via its private radio known as "Sawt al-Haqq, Sawt Harakat at-Tawhid al-Islamiyah," [the Voice of Justice, the Voice of the Islamic Unification Movement]. It transmits news, religious instruction, and songs for 3 hours in the morning and for 3 hours in the afternoon. This radio station is the only one in the Tripoli area now, in addition to the "Fatah" radio station which moved from Al-Baddawi camp to Tripoli 12 days ago, and it is probable that the latter station will depart with the departure of the forces from Tripoli.

Official Source Satisfied With Reagan Statement

NC220652 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] President Reagan's statement at a news conference yesterday, in which he stressed that the Marines will stay in Lebanon and that the U.S. commitment to solve the Lebanese question will continue, has brought a general satisfaction to official and popular Lebanese circles. An official Lebanese source has expressed this satisfaction and said that the U.S. President's statement has clarified Washington's stance regarding the Lebanese question in reply to the recent arguments over a previous Reagan statement concerning the Marines' withdrawal from Lebanon should the general situation collapse. The source said

that Reagan's recent statement has ended all speculation and confirmed the firm U.S. stance regarding its commitments toward Lebanon, particularly in respect of continuing the efforts for the withdrawal of foreign forces and achieving national reconciliation.

Cabinet Briefed on Al-Jumayyil's Visits

NC211629 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Telephone dispatch by Joe Sa'adah from the Presidential Palace — live or recorded]

[Text]The Cabinet held its weekly session at noon on Wednesday, 21 December 1983, under the chairmanship of His Excellency the president of the republic and in the presence of the prime minister and ministers. At the end of the session, Shafiq Mnaymah, the Cabinet secretary general, circulated the following official statement: At the beginning of the session, His Excellency the president briefed the Cabinet on his visits to the United Kingdom, Moroccan Kingdom, and the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. The visit to the United Kingdom was characterized by the affirmation of the continued support of Her Majesty's Government to Lebanon through its participation in the Multinational Force and through its activities at the EC.

The purpose of the visit to the Moroccan Kingdom was to emphasize the strong relations between the two countries and to consolidate the understanding existing between them.

The sudden visit to Libya took place in response to a sudden invitation which President al-Jumayyil received from His Excellency Colonel al-Qadhdhafi when President al-Jumayyil was in Morocco. The visit helped to clarify stands and to reach an understanding on the need to continue contacts in order to open a new chapter serving the interests of Lebanon and joint Arab interests. The prime minister then reviewed the general political situation and the contacts held so far at the meetings which the foreign minister held in Damascus and Riyadh, and which he will resume in the first week of next month. Prime Minister al-Wazzan expressed satisfaction with the positive atmosphere created to push the Lebanese-Syrian understanding toward results that would realize the desire for final solutions bringing about the termination of the Israeli occupation and the restoration of full sovereignty over all Lebanon. The Palestinian gunmen's departure from Tripoli is a step along this path which must be followed up in the near future.

On this occasion, Prime Minister al-Wazzan praised the efforts of the Internal Security Forces and their commanders, who executed the departure arrangements in an efficient way, thus ensuring the role of legitimacy. Prime Minister al-Wazzan hoped that contacts will continue with all the fraternal Arab and friendly states, saying Lebanon is faithful to its relations, which it wants always to be based on reciprocal respect, particularly respect of sovereignty.

Lebanon is always ready to extend a hand of fraternity and friendship when matters are put in order.

President al-Jumayyil, Prime Minister al-Wazzan, and Minister Salim then spoke about the current contacts regarding the south and about the talks about Israeli partial withdrawals. They also spoke about the need for coordination to prevent the recurrence of the tragedy which took place following the uncoordinated Israeli withdrawal from the mountain.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan raised the question of the kidnapped persons and the contacts held to release them. He also referred to this morning's meeting with the International Red Cross representatives. Al-Wazzan proposed the formation of a special court to consider the kidnapping cases and to strictly implement the penalties stipulated by the new legislative decree pertaining to the penal code. It was decided to charge the justice minister with the adoption of the necessary measures and with submitting his proposals in this regard.

The prime minister also raised the question of Barr Ilyas, the damages caused, and the dangers threatening the houses near the hill which collapsed. It was decided to charge the ministers of housing and public works to deal with the issue and adopt measures to erect the necessary installations, disregarding the red tape. It was also decided to grant the two ministers all necessary powers to avert the danger. The Cabinet then reviewed the items on its agenda and adopted the appropriate decisions.

Al-Jumayyil, Franjiyah Exchange Verbal Messages

NC220741 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Excerpts]Deputy Michel Sasin conveyed a verbal message from President Amin al-Jumayyil to Sulayman Franjiyah at yesterday's meeting between Franjiyah and Sasin during which various Lebanese questions were discussed. After the meeting Deputy Sasin said: Before leaving for Zgharta, I had the honor of meeting with President Amin al-Jumayyil who gave me a verbal message which I conveyed with love and sincerity to Franjiyah, who in turn gave me a reply message which I will convey to President al-Jumayyil.

Khaddam: Syria Supports Lebanon's Independence

NC211601 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text]Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has told press doyen Muhammad al-Ba'labakki and the press syndicate delegation that Syria will do its utmost to help surmount all obstacles which still obstruct the second stage of the Lebanese dialogue, foremost of which is the 17 May agreement. Khaddam reiterated Syria's eagerness to safeguard Lebanon's unity, independence, and sovereignty. He said that the unity of the Lebanese is the basis for saving Lebanon, and that if the dialogue stumbles, serious consequences will result which will not be confined to Lebanon but include the whole Arab region as well. He added: Syria will spare no efforts on this basis to resume contacts with Ministers Elie Salim and Sa'ud al-Faysal to overcome all difficulties.

Salim, Al-Hariri Discuss Cease-Fire Consolidation

NC211839 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim and Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri today reviewed the results of Al Hariri's meetings in Damascus yesterday with Syrian officials regarding the security arrangements. The foreign minister received Al-Hariri for an hour at 0900 this morning in the presence of Jean 'Ubayd. The discussions centered on the efforts exerted to consolidate the cease-fire on the basis of the security plan now under consideration.

Diplomatic sources said that Al-Hariri is handling the security arrangements issue on authority of Saudi Arabia and that he is holding negotiations with the Syrian side, the National Salvation Front, and the Amal Movement.

Several issues related to aspects outside this question were tackled at today's meeting. Saudi Arabia strongly desires to consolidate the cease-fire at any cost, while Syria is showing an understanding of this. All efforts in this respect are now being devoted to the realization of serious practical steps.

Reportage on Planned Iranian Exit, Reaction

Diplomats Detained

NC211426 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] The Iranian plane scheduled to transport the Iranian diplomatic mission today left Beirut Airport at 1300 without the mission. Iranian Charge d'Affaires Muhammad Nurani contacted the Lebanese Foreign Ministry saying that ulema and gunmen detained him and members of the mission in Al-Ghubayrah and prevented them from leaving Lebanon. The Foreign Ministry briefed Minister Elie Salim on the charge d'affaires message during the Cabinet session.

Take Refuge in Shi'ite Area

NC211800 Paris AFP in English 1730 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Beirut, Dec 21 (AFP) — The Iranian diplomatic mission here, headed by Charge d'Affaires Muhammad Nurani, today refused to heed an expulsion order from the Lebanese Government and took refuge in a Shi'ite stronghold south of Beirut. "Moslems will not submit to injustice, and the Americans, who support Israel, the source of our troubles, will leave Lebanon before we do," Mr Nurani told a group of Shi'ite religious leaders earlier in the day, Lebanese radio reported. "The decision to break relations with Iran is a challenge to Moslems that we will prevent in the name of Moslems," the Shi'ite leaders responded, the radio said. The Iranians, who were scheduled to leave on November 23, remained in the country because Beirut Airport was closed. After the airport reopenedlast week, the departure was set for today. The Iranian diplomats went instead to a farewell meeting with Shi'ite leaders at a mosque in Al-Ghubayrah, a suburb south of Beirut, and missed the flight.

Lebanese Muslims Demonstrate

GF220718 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Following the Amin al-Jumayyil's government's decision to sever diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Fighting Muslims and Clergymen of Lebanon met at the Imam Mehdi Mosque in south Beirut and once again announced their support for the Islamic Republic of Iran and called for the rescindment of the expulsion order of Iranian diplomats. The diplomats were instructed to leave yesterday at noon.

According to the Central News Unit yesterday morning, thousands of Lebanese Muslims demonstrated in the streets. Some of them wore white sheets on which "lovers of Islam" and [Arabic words indistinct] were written. They also carried large portraits of Imam Khomeyni, the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and placards condemning the Lebanese Government's expulsion decision. The demonstrators entered the Imam Mehdi Mosque and shouted "God is great," "There is only one God," and "God, God please keep Khomeyni safe until the Revolution of Mehdi" [the twelfth imam who disappeared]. They also shouted against the United States, France, the Zionist regime, and Lebanon.

One of the society of Muslim ulema's members talked of the relationship between the Muslims of Lebanon and the Islamic Republic of Iran, saying that it is a just and ideological one and no foolish decisions will affect it. The speaker then threatened the Lebanese Government, saying that if Al-Jumayyil does not alter his decision within the next month, all the Muslims of this country, its clergymen, and members of the Iranian Embassy will take refuge in this mosque.

Another member of the Fighting Ulema of Lebanon then talked on the plots which the Islamic Republic of Iran is facing, saying:- The Lebanese and Iranian Muslims will unite under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni and march southwards to Jerusalem where they will hoist the flag of Islam and pray in Al-Aqsa Mosque.

At the end of the ceremony, an official of the Islamic Republic Embassy in Lebanon spoke. He said: The shouts of "God is great" and martyrdom in the path of God has created fear in the hearts of the United States, the Zionist regime, and France. This slogan tolls the end of all powers.

A clergymen then read the message the newly freed prisoners of Al-Ansar Prison sent Imam Khomeyni. The message read: Each and everyone of us prisoners are here as your representatives in this prison because by taking advantage of our faith in God and following the fruitful advice of such a great leader, we have stood up to resist the enemy soldiers.

French Reporters Interview President al-Asad

JN211338 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus — President Hafiz al-Asad has received a delegation from the French magazine *LE POINT*. The group includes Mr (Michel Colomis), editor in chief of the magazine, and Mrs (Miriel Dutier), editor in charge of Middle East affairs.

In his statement to the delegation, the president dealt with the Lebanese situation, French-Syrian relations, and the U.S. military escalation in Lebanon. The magazine will publish the president's statement by the end of this week.

U.S. Policy Will Not Win 'Laurels of Victory'

JN211551 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] President Ronald Reagan talks about Lebanon as if he runs things in that Arab country and has rights that no one else has. He has announced that U.S. forces will remain in Lebanon until they achieve the objectives for which they were originally sent. As is known, these objectives were changed after U.S. forces deviated from their declared mission in Lebanon. They became involved in domestic Lebanese disputes, and — through these disputes — transformed themselves into a party to the conflict and an ally of one Lebanese group against the others, as are the militias involved in the domestic Lebanese fighting.

U.S. units dominate the Multinational Force. The deviation from their declared mission has made the United States unable to play a positive, constructive role in efforts to achieve peace, security, and stability in Lebanon. U.S. involvement in a strategic cooperation agreement with Israel has made it an Israeli partner in the occupation of Lebanon; a source of support for the Israeli occupation; and an obstacle in the way of all positive efforts being made to secure the withdrawal of the Israeli invasion forces from Lebanon and to attain Lebanon's peace, stability, security, and complete national independence.

Instead of using its influence to persuade Israel to leave Lebanon in accordance with Security Council resolutions and to create favorable conditions that will allow Syrian forces to withdraw as well, the United States has announced through President Reagan that U.S. forces will not leave Lebanon unless the Israeli and Syrian forces leave. This U.S. declaration further complicates the Lebanese problem, since that country cannot be helped to exercise its independence and sovereignty by keeping U.S. forces there. This must be done by making Israel leave Lebanon without conditions and without any agreement that might harm either Lebanon's security and independence or Syria's security. The departure of the Israeli invaders from Lebanon without any gain is a first step toward the departure of non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon. It is also a step toward encouraging Lebanon to follow the path of national accord and to establish a strong national government supported by a majority of the Lebanese people.

Due to its strong ties with Israel, the United States is capable of influencing the Israeli position and persuading its rulers to pull their forces out of Lebanon. Any delay in this regard will reveal the extent of U.S. involvement in Israel's expansionist policy, and the coordination between U.S. objectives in the region and Israel's invasion and occupation of Lebanon. President Reagan's announcement yesterday that he is eager to find a political settlement to the Middle East problem in accordance with the U.S. viewpoint shows his country's desire to use the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the presence of U.S. forces in this Arab country as a means of imposing its will on other people and forcing them to accept a settlement that conflicts with regional peace and security interests and contradicts the letter and spirit of the principles contained in the UN Charter and resolutions.

The Reagan administration's actions in Lebanon do show that the United States is not concerned about playing the role of a superpower — one which honors its responsibilities toward the international community and its law, as well as toward the United Nations. Moreover, encouraging Israel to conduct dangerous acts of provocation and aggression might spark a fire in this region, which President Reagan has described as volatile. Any fire in this region will draw the United States into a dispute for which a very high price will be paid. This fact should be of concern to U.S. public opinion, which well remembers what happened in Vietnam and does not believe that there are any U.S. national interests in Lebanon. The Reagan administration's insistence on becoming involved in aggressive military actions in this region will neither win it laurels of victory nor form a page of honor for U.S. history in the region.

Mitterrand's 'Changed French Policy' Criticized

JN211328 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1245 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Report entitled: "Mitterrand's France in the Middle East," carried during the "On the Events" program]

[Text] It is not strange that David Levi, the Zionist enemy's deputy prime minister, has described French President Francois Mitterrand as a close friend who understands Israel's problems. Nor is it strange that Mitterrand makes haphazard accusations against Syria, describing it as the hotbed of problems in the Middle East. This is not strange to us because we understand the biased political line which Mitterrand adopted when he drew up the trend that French policy would follow under his rule.

Since his assumption of power in France, Francois Mitterrand has emphasized the leading role of the United States in the world and displayed love and rapprochement toward Israel. Mitterrand has ignored the just stands which France adopted at the time of Charles de Gaulle. Those positions included a call for the stopping of arms shipments to Israel following its criminal act of aggression in 1967, and for the display of an understanding policy toward Arab rights.

Mitterrand has changed French policy from one that was independent in decision and practice to one of a puppet state which

implements the U.S. scheme, particularly in the Middle East. Under Mitterrand, France went back on the Venice statement issued by the West European states concerning the Arab-Zionist conflict. It supported the Camp David accords and considered them to be the basic means of achieving peace in the Middle East. It adopted a lukewarm attitude toward the rights of the Palestinian Arab people. Mitterrand was the first French president to visit the Zionist entity and to declare — in occupied Jerusalem — that the Jewish people have acquired the right to live on the land upon which their forefathers left an indelible impression.

Observers recall the day when Mitterrand invited Zionist Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres to attend the ceremony marking his assumption of the French presidency on the pretext that he is a friend and partner in the Socialist International. Political observers stess the fact that France, under the Mitterrand-led Socialist Party — which is well known historically for its support of the occupation of Algeria, its participation in the tripartite aggression against Egypt, its direct interference in the internal affairs of Chad, and its stand against the Lebanese and Syrian peoples — exactly as the United States is doing — has been robbed of its independence and transformed into an obedient tool and a biased side in the conflict, implementing U.S. policy. It is now certain that any French move, regardless of its size or form, should have advance U.S. approval.

As a service to U.S.-Zionist plans; for the sake of finding new faces to resolve the Middle Eastern dispute according to U.S. wishes; and due to the suffocation of the Camp David policy and the approaching end of the period defined by these accords for the implementation of autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, observers conclude that France — taking advantage of its impact in the Socialist International and attempting to portray itself as a moderate and neutral side in the conflict — intends to take an initiative for the resolution of the Middle East crisis that is European in form and American in content. According to these observers, this may explain the intense political activity which has been going on in Paris.

In Paris, as the news agencies have reported, the Jordanian king and President Mitterrand discussed the Middle East situation. Husayn expressed his belief that the French role would promote the reaching of a settlement. David Levi also held similar talks with Mitterrand in Paris. This was followed by curses and threats against Syria by both those nations. Moreover, informed sources have revealed that the arrangements for 'Arafat's visit to France have been completed.

In the opinion of observers, this highlights the fact that France — which is gathering the agents working for the U.S. solution on its own territory and reuniting them with the blood of the Lebanese who have been hit by U.S., French, Israeli, and Phalangist shells — is the most important guarantee for implementing the U.S. solution, which has regional domination as its goal.

Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, has and will continue to confront all schemes hostile to the Arab nation. It will maintain its principled stand. In doing so, it is armed by the Arab masses, the justice of the cause, and the support of the world's forces of liberation and socialism.

Shamir on Andreotti Talks, 'Arafat-Mubarak Meeting

TA221159 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1150 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Report by Gid'on Remez — recorded]

[Text] Upon the publication of the report on the meeting between Mubarak and 'Arafat, the prime minister's adviser on communications and foreign press affairs, Uri Porat, gave me the following announcement:

Upon the release of the report, the prime minister said there is room for astonishment and regret about the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting. The prime minister mentioned that immediately after As-Sadat's murder, 'Arafat and his supporters danced with joy in Beirut's streets. Therefore, one wonders at the fact that Mubarak is now prepared to meet with this man, as Mr Porat put it. This is the prime minister's reaction.

It is interesting to note that this was also mentioned by the prime minister's interlocutor today, Italian Foreign Affairs Minister Giulio Andreotti. When he left a long meeting with the prime minister and his aides, a meeting which lasted about 2 hours, Mr Andreotti was asked, among other things, about the evacuation of Mr 'Arafat and his men from Tripoli, and said the following:

One should see this matter in the larger context, among other things on a humanitarian level, of a man who has to leave the country he was staying in. However, we Italians believe that primary importance should lie in the continuation of the process begun with the Israeli-Egyptian accord so that this process will now advance to the stage which includes negotiations with the other Arab countries as well.

As for Lebanese issues, it seems that there were almost no disagreements between Mr Shamir and Mr Andreotti. This was also stated by Mr Shamir himself. There seem to have been no disagreements also regarding the Italian announcement that the size of its unit in the Multinational Force will be decreased from 2,200 to 1,100 men. Mr Shamir said this was already known by Israel and there are almost no disagreements.

According to remarks made by Shamir following the meeting, the impression given was that economic matters werefeatured prominently in the talks.

[Begin Shamir recording] We held a thorough talk about our concern regarding the Common Market, expanding the Common Market, the dangers we face if an agreement is not reached between the EEC and Israel before Spain joins the EEC. This is a very serious problem and we wanted to make clear to Andreotti Israel's serious and deep concern about this. [end recording]

Andreotti said that Italy accepts that the interests of the countries with which the EEC already has agreements — Israel included — should be guaranteed before anything is made to expand the EEC, namely, before accepting Spain and Portugal into this framework. [end recording]

Andreotti Arrival Statement

TA211859 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Italian Foreign Affairs Minister Giulio Andreotti arrived this evening in Israel for a 2-day visit. Upon his arrival at Ben-Gurion Airport, Andreotti said Italy wants to contribute to the strengthening of peace, security, and stability of the peoples of the Middle East and particularly of the Israeli people who suffered so much during World War II. The guest also said he is excited about this visit because there are many Jews in Italy and ties with them are deep in view of what they underwent there during World War II. The Italian foreign affairs minister was greeted by Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir. Andreotti will confer tomorrow with the prime minister and will be given an audience with the president.

Foreign Ministry Reaction to Mubarak-'Arafat Meeting

TA221255 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1250 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has published an official reaction to the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting in Cairo. In its announcement the Foreign Ministry says that the meeting is a heavy blow to the peace process in the Middle East. The existence and the activities of the PLO are opposed to this peace and prevent any attempt to extend it. The total disappearance of this organization is a precondition to reaching peace and stability in this region.

Reaction to Mubarak-'Arafat Meeting Previewed

TA220938 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Dec 83 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Tuviya Mendelsson]

[Text] A meeting between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat will be viewed severely in Jerusalem, which will see it as another expression of Egypt distancing itself from the Camp David accords. Israel, political sources stressed yesterday, will not react officially to such a meeting until it is held.

Authoritative sources stress that it is not by chance that since President Anwar as-Sadat opened his peace initiative there has been no meeting between an Egyptian president and the PLO head, and that such a meeting is contrary to the spirit of the Camp David accords.

According to some reports the United States acted in Egypt in order to convince Mubarak to meet 'Arafat. No confirmation of that was received in Jerusalem. However opinion is that the Americans might want Mubarak to talk to 'Arafat about Egypt's attitude to the Reagan initiative. Political observers in Jerusalem said last night that if the Reagan initiative is discussed between Mubarak and 'Arafat, then maybe 'Arafat will meet Husayn about this subject.

Israel Heeded French Warning on Tripoli Evacuation

TA220935 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Dec 83 p 1

[Report by U.S.-based correspondent 'Uzi Benziman]

[Text] The *HA'ARETZ* correspondent in the United States reports that Israel removed the siege from Tripoli following a French warning that it would consider any firing on the vessels evacuating the PLO people the same as an attack on French vessels.

While the United States begged Israel to stop interfering with the evacuation, France adopted a tone of explicit warning which moved Israel not to interfere with the evacuation.

Press on PLO, Multinational Force Withdrawals

TA220907 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Review of midday press editorials]

[Text] *MA'ARIV* mentions that the recent attacks against the French targets in Beirut were prepared and carried out at a time when French warships were escorting the Tripoli evacuees. This combination can teach those who still need the lesson that one cannot achieve a compromise with terrorism and live in peace with it. Terrorism, the paper emphasizes, has rules of its own, and those who are unprepared to learn them pay the price for this.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT writes we are on the point of the evacuation of the Multinational Force in Lebanon and we had better not delude ourselves. Israel should begin to prepare for the hard days ahead so that when the time comes we do not face this development in a state of confusion the way we were regarding Tripoli this past week.

Arab Unions Thank France, Greece for 'Arafat Aid

TA211922 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] The main professional unions in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip today expressed their deep gratitude to France and Greece for helping in the evacuation of 'Arafat and his men from Tripoli.

In a joint communique, the unions reiterated their loyalty to the Palestinian revolution and to the PLO under the legitimate leadership of Yasir 'Arafat.

The communique was signed by, among others, the federation of professional unions in the West Bank, the federation of youth movements, the federation of organizations of Palestinian women, the management of the universities in Nabulus, Bi'r Zayt, and Hebron, the students' committees in these universities, and several dignitaries from Nabulus, Ramallah, and Jerusalem.

MA'ARIV Reports on Interview With Egypt's 'Ali

TA220905 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Dec 83 p 1

[Report from Washington by 'Oded Granot on an interview with Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali — date and place not given]

[Text] Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that despite the criticism voiced lately against Israel in the Egyptian press, "there is not even one Egyptian who wants the peace process to collapse."

"We keep our word and honor our signature; however, we must improve the atmosphere between us. The incessant talking about settlements and the shelling on Tripoli did not contribute toward it," he said.

In a special interview to *MA'ARIV*, after meeting yesterday with President Reagan, 'Ali revealed that a few days ago he personally called Ambassador Moshe Sason in order to convey a message to the Israeli Government through him. In the message Israel was asked not to impede 'Arafat's evacuation from Tripoli.

He also confirmed that he asked Secretary of State George Shultz to call on Israel not to undermine the evacuation of the PLO men.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali pointed to signs showing, in his opinion, that after Tripoli 'Arafat will show signs of moderation and readiness to enter negotiations.

'Ali said that it was 'Arafat who asked to meet Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

He recalled that when 'Arafat was first expelled from Lebanon he refused to meet Mubarak and claimed that this fact points, among other things, to 'Arafat's growing moderation and his readiness to enter into a political dialogue.

He went on to reveal that the visit of an Egyptian dignitary, which was to have taken place some time ago, was postponed because of the Israeli shelling on 'Arafat and his men in Tripoli. The visit, however, will take place at a later date.

According to him, Egypt was not surprised by the results of Yitzhaq Shamir's visit to Washington; however, the exaggerated description of the visit in the U.S. press caused concern in the Arab world, arousing fears that U.S.- Israeli cooperation is intended against the Arab countries.

"Egypt calmed down after it received clarifications, in writing and orally, from President Reagan and Secretary of State Shultz."

Egyptian Complaint on Elat Prisoner's Death

TA211258 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Dec 83 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Egyptian diplomats in Israel complained about the treatment accorded to an Egyptian citizen in Elat's detention house, before he committed suicide. The man committed suicide 2 days ago in the detention cell in Elat, after being detained by the border police while trying to cross from Jordan into Israel at the area of Al-'Aqabah.

The Egyptian consulate in Elat and the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv yesterday asked for details on the circumstances of the man's death while hinting at dissatisfaction from the treatment he received after being detained.

Egyptian diplomats in Israel have refrained so far from officially requesting an investigation into the affair.

Me'ir Reads Lewis Statement on Sharon to Knesset

TA220917 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Dec 83 p 2

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir yesterday read in the Knesset the statement by U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis regarding the meeting he held with the late Deputy Prime Minister Simha Ehrlich. In the statement it was said that Ambassador Lewis never recommended the dismissal of former Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon from his post.

Deputy Foreign Minister Ben-Me'ir read this statement while answering motions to the agenda: the first about "contacts of ministers and government officials with the U.S. ambassador" which was brought up by MK Moshe Shahal (Alignment); and the second concerning "contacts of Knesset members and opposition leaders with the U.S. ambassador" brought up by MK Milo (Likud).

Ben-Me'ir on Husayn's Failure To Join Talks

TA211217 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Dec 83 p 2

[Report by Knesset affairs correspondent Arye Rubinstein]

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir said yesterday that King Husayn's failure to join the autonomy talks is delaying a solution to the problem of the administered areas. It is regrettable that the main losers from this delay are the Palestinian Arabs, he said.

Replying to motions for the agenda by Ya'aqov Tzur (Alignment) and Ge'ula Kohen (Tehiya) on "renewing the political process with Jordan," Ben-Me'ir noted that prime minister Shamir, like his predecessors, had urged Husayn to join the talks. That invitation still stands, he said.

When Ben-Me'ir said that Camp David was the only basis for peace, Shim'on Peres (Alignment) asked why then had the U.S. come up with the Reagan plan.

Ben-Me'ir replied that the Reagan plan is an interpretation of Camp David that differs from Israel's. But Camp David is the only agreed document and is therefore the only basis for peace, he said.

Tzur's motion was struck from the agenda by a vote of 39-36. Kohen's motion was referred to the foreign affairs and defence committee by a vote of 40-36, Shoshana Arbeli (Alignment) voting with the coalition and Amnon Lin (Alignment) abstaining.

Agriculture Minister on Cutting Settlement Budgets

TA211257 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Dec 83 p 3

[Excerpt] "The Government of Israel will have no choice but to cut the budgets of Judaea and Samaria as well. In my opinion the government today should put the stress on the Jordan Rift Valley. Compared to it, the Judaea and Samaria area is already 'the heart of Tel Aviv', and there is no need to help and encourage people to come settle there." This was stated yesterday by Agriculture Minister Pesah Grupper to the heads of the settlements in the Jordan Rift Valley.

Agreement With U.S. Linked to West Bank, Golan

TA201156 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Dec 83 p 9

[Commentary by Dan Margalit: "Strategic Accord Ltd."]

[Text] A U.S. military-political commentator arriving from Damascus this week claimed that the Syrians want to engage in serious negotiations with the United States. However, Donald Rumsfeld found the Syrian capital cold, tough, and demanding. Israeli observers got the impression that the U.S. envoy believes that when positions are presented, the Syrians will call for no less than the total removal of Christian supremacy in the land of the cedars. Were opinion in the United States unanimous that the U.S. presence in Lebanon serves a vital national interest, such an impression could ensure that the strategic Israeli-U.S. cooperation Yitzhaq Shamir and Moshe Arens were so proud of on their return from Washington will continue in the foreseeable future. However, America has been signaling something else altogether.

This was particularly evident in the series of articles which arrived 2 days ago from the other side of the Atlantic Ocean. The line adopted at the time by William Safire — that what the Reagan administration needs most is an alliance with Israel — and a similar line which also affected moderate commentators such as Joseph Kraft, were replaced by heavy pressure on the White House to bring the Marines home. Reagan's announcement that he will be running for another term set the date: May or June 1984 is the deadline for the U.S. soldiers in Lebanon, and some people fear they might be sent home even earlier.

The Israeli Government has now realized that the Reagan administration's attempt to tackle problems according to Henry Kissinger's methods did not succeed. The former U.S. secretary of state had favored a carrot-and-stick policy without setting a time limit, but Hafiz al-Asad or his predecessor knew exactly when the U.S. stick would break and when the air bombings and

reconnaissance flights and shellings from the sea would stop. In a regime where public opinion does not play any role whatsoever, the Syrian leaders can persist and even harden their current policy. After all, even if the assessment of this veteran U.S. commentator is true that the Syrians want to begin a dialogue with the United States, it will be easier for Damascus to do that after it has stood up and passed the test of U.S. shellings. As Americans said this week, Al-Asad is the other side of Kissinger.

Under these circumstances, Israel must contemplate the practical benefits it may gain from its current relations with the United States. It received a document from Washington promising extensive economic support, which exceeds earlier predictions, if a dangerous and unexpected security situation is created. Israel was told that delegations would come to hold strategic discussions. No assurances have been given yet that the Pentagon will definitely thaw its cool attitude toward Arens's development projects. It seems that for the time being both sides want to maintain an image of tightening cooperation rather than implementing it.

The Americans feel uneasy with any binding agreement with Israel, as long as the latter remains entrenched in its position on the main pending issue, that of the future of Judaea and Samaria and the Plaestinian problem. As Jerusalem knows very well, the Americans made this plain in Rumsfeld's recent talks in Cairo. The fact that 'Arafat remains a terrorist, and that George Shultz is furious about President Husni Mubarak's insincerity, is not a good substitute for the necessary Israeli-U.S. understanding about the future of the administered territories. Now, Mubarak may also calm down. The famous Israeli-U.S. strategic agreement is merely a limited move as long as Jerusalem applies it only to what is happening in Lebanon.

For its part, Israel is pleased with the current situation. Ultimately, every move made by the current government — even pertaining to urgent matters in Lebanon — stems from its intentions and plans to annex Judaea and Samaria. And this subject is a stumbling block to any real agreement, both with the Arabs and the Americans.

What we are faced with now is a temporary Israeli-U.S. tactical understanding on a very specific matter in Lebanon, and this is too little when viewed against the hopes Israel pinned on the potential understanding emerging between Jerusalem and Washington.

The chances for deep cooperation have not yet been missed, but they are decreasing daily. Both sides realize that the unilateral withdrawal of the Marines is almost imminent. What Jerusalem does not yet know is the price it will have to pay to cover for this expected move, which will leave Israel in Lebanon on its own. Fears are increasing that what Shamir and Arens could have attained from Washington at the peak of this cooperation a few weeks ago, they might now achieve, too late, by cancelling this cooperation.

This conclusion brings us back to square one. Shamir and Arens cannot expect cooperation with the United States based on a phased tactical convenience in Lebanon. If Israel wants a timely unlimited agreement with Washington, it must bring about a long-term agreement in principle.

Understanding with Washington will not be achieved through joint bombings of the terrorists and Syrians — although the very fact that the United States is ready to do this openly is encouraging to Israel — or through agreements about pressing Al-Asad and pushing 'Arafat into a corner.

There are no shortcuts to a fundamental agreement with the United States including Judaea and Samaria, and perhaps even the Golan Heights.

Finance Minister To Visit U.S. in January

TA211228 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Dec 83 p 1

["Exclusive" report by U.S.-based correspondent 'Uzi Benziman]

[Text] Washington — Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad is scheduled to arrive in Washington at the end of January for discussions on Israel's economic situation. He will meet with Secretary of State George Shultz and U.S. Treasury Secretary Donald Regan.

Hammer's Condition Good; To Resume Activities

TA211111 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1050 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Jerusalem 21 Dec (ITIM) — Minister of Education and Culture Zevulun Hammer was released from the convalescent home in Kfar Hamakabiya after suffering a heart attack about a month ago. It was reported that his condition is good and he will gradually resume full activity.

Bus Stoned in Al-Birah; Stones Thrown in Nabulus

TA211426 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] An Israeli bus was stoned today in Al-Birah and its windows were smashed. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that in Nabulus as well stones were thrown today.

This morning students gathered at the town's bus station since many of them were unable to reach the university. The military government set up roadblocks at the entrance to the An-Najah University. Due to this, studies were disrupted.

Hand Grenade Thrown at IDF Jeep in Sidon

TA221121 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] It has been reported that a 15-year-old boy threw a hand grenade at an IDF jeep in Sidon at noon. The hand grenade exploded but no damage or casualties were inflicted.

Terror Group Responsible for Burning Arab Cars

TA220738 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Dec 83 p 1

[Report by Robert Rosenberg]

[Excerpt] Three cars belonging to Arab residents of Jerusalem were burned early yesterday morning in Al-Akhtal Street in the Wadi Al-Jawz neighbourhood.

A flammable liquid was poured on the cars and set alight. The resulting explosions brought out neighbours, who put out the fires and kept them from spreading.

Fire department investigators said the arsonists had poured flammable liquid on two other cars, which did not catch fire.

A phone call last night to a newspaper said that Terror Against Terror (TNT) was responsible for the arson of "six Arab cars" in East Jerusalem. "Jewish blood is not cheap," said the caller, who hung up before he could be questioned.

IDF Ends Role in Dayr al-Qamar Evacuation

TA220740 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] The evacuation of Dayr al-Qamar is continuing but the IDF has ended its role there and left the Ash-Shuf mountains. The International Red Cross [IRC] has taken over the handling of affairs there. Our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, reports that the evacuation will end in 3 days:

[Begin recording] The 3,000 civilians of Dayr al-Qamar have been evacuated through three traffic axes so far. Some of them reached the IDF-controlled Jazzin area and from there they arrived in Beirut through Sidon; others made their way from Dayr al-Qamar to Kafr Him in Ash-Shuf and from there to Beirut via Ad-Damur. Over the last 2 days about 1,000 Christians were evacuated and transferred to Beirut directly, without reaching the IDF-controlled region in Lebanon.

The IDF forces that safeguarded the eastern Ash-Shuf region have in fact ended their mission and returned to their positions south of the Al-Awwali River. It seems that in the future, too, the IDF will continue with patrols north of the river as was the case in recent months.

The IRC and the Lebanese gendarmerie are the elements which safeguard the traffic axes in the Ash-Shuf region through which the evacuated civilians go; and as far as is known, the Druze forces have not tried to harrass the evacuees over the last 2 days. The evacuation will end within 3 days. A total of about 5,000 Christian civilians will leave Dayr al-Qamar in addition to the 2,000 Phalangists who were evacuated from Dayr al-Qamar about a week ago. [end recording]

Dahaf Poll Shows Alignment Edges Likud

TA211339 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 Dec 83 p 1

[Dahaf poll]

[Text] If the Knesset elections were held today, the Alignment, under the leadership of Peres, would win four more seats thanthe Likud under Shamir. Under the leadership of Rabin, the margin would increase to 17 seats, and under Navon to 23 seats. Thesefindings are published in the new edition of the monthly magazine *MONITIN*, and are based on a poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute directed by Dr Mina Tzemah.

The Alignment under the leadership of Shim'on Peres would win a potential 51 seats, as compared to 47 for the Likud; under Yitzhaq Rabin — 58 seats as compared to 41 for the Likud; under Yitzhaq Navon — 62 as compared to 39 seats.

As for the other parties: The National Religious Party — 5 seats; Agudat Yisra'el — 5 seats; Shinuy — 3 seats; Tami — 1 seat; Citizens Rights Movement — 1 seat; Tehiya — 3 seats; HADASH — 4 seats.

The suggestion to hold the elections early, or in the upcoming months, enjoys massive support. Those preferring it to other possibilities number 36 percent of the population, whereas 33 percent prefer to have the Alignment join a broadly-based government headed by the Likud. About 21 percent prefer the present government to serve until its term ends in about two years, and 8 percent are interested in the establishment of an alternative government headed by the Alignment but without the Likud.

The pollsters observe that the main reason for the low state of the Likud and its government must be attributed first and foremost to the economic crisis which erupted when the bank shares fell. Indeed, the findings show that in the economic sector the government is given low marks in the public's opinion: Thirty percent believe economic issues have been dealt with well, but 67 percent believe they have been mishandled.

Israeli-Made Nuclear Reactor Model Exhibited

TA221000 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Dec 83 p 6

[Report by Dani Sade]

[Excerpt] A first model of an Israeli-made nuclear power station was shown yesterday at the Technion [Technological Institute] in Haifa in front of the participants in the annual convention of the nuclear unions in Israel.

OAU Warns RSA Against Attack on Lesotho

AB220910 Paris AFP in English 0841 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Addis Ababa, Dec 22 (AFP) — The Organization of African Unity (OAU) today expressed grave concern at an "imminent attack" Lesotho alleges is being prepared against it by South African based rebels.

The Lesothan Government said earlier this week it had asked Pretoria to stop the planned attack by the opposition Lesotho Liberation Army [LLA], the armed wing of the exiled Basotho Congress Party, which it said was aimed at toppling the regime of Chief Leabua Jonathan.

Maseru has previously accused South Africa of supporting the LLA, and the OAU today pinned the blame firmly on Pretoria, which it said was "well known" for its support of dissidents not only in Lesotho but also in Mozambique, Angola, and Zimbabwe.

South Africa's "nefarious schemes to destabilize the countries in the region" were also well established, the OAU said in a statement.

It added, "The Organization of African Unity strongly warns the racist Pretoria regime not to allow its territory to be used as a springboard for attacks against the Kingdom of Lesotho in contravention of international law."

The OAU also called on the international community to help stop "this wicked plan" aimed at installing a puppet regime in Lesotho, after declaring it would hold South Africa responsible for any violation of the territorial integrity of Lesotho.

MAURITANIA

Foreign Minister Receives Libyan Official

AB211340 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Major Ahmed Ould Minnih, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, received the secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau in Mauritania yesterday. At the end of the audience, the Libyan diplomat declared that he and the minister reviewed several aspects of the cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

Commissioner Discusses Libyan, Algerian Food Aid

AB211350 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Captain Moulaye Hachem O. Moulaye Ahmed, the commissioner in charge of food security, received the secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau yesterday, with whom he discussed the receipt of a gift of some 3000 tons of barley, which has already been delivered to Nouakchott.

The commissioner in charge of food security also received the Algerian charge d'affaires yesterday, and held talks on bilateral relations, with emphasis on the supply of food.

On this occasion, Captain Moulaye Hachem O. Moulaye Ahmed expressed pleasure over the arrival in Nouakchott of some 2000 tons of (?flour) and 50 tons of wheat as emergency aid from the Algerian Government. This gift is in addition to the 2400 tons of aid — consisting of various goods — which arrived in Nouakchott last October and November by air.

The commissioner for food security asked each of these two diplomats to convey to their respective governments the gratitude of the Mauritanian leadership and Mauritanian people for this generous aid.

Congolese Foreign Minister Arrives 21 December

LD212238 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Summary] Congolese Foreign Minister Pierre Nze arrived n Nouakchott this evening, where he was welcomed by Foreign Minister Ould Minnih. Mr Nze said that he has come to give a fresh impetus to the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Joint Ministerial Meeting With Mali Ends

AB201320 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Excerpts] The Mauritanian-Malian ministerial meeting ended in Nema on Saturday with a final communique, which was published simultaneously in Bamako and Nouakchott this morning.

Following the customary speeches delivered by the two heads of delegation, deliberations opened on the following issues: first, a review of joint projects; second, administrative relations; and third, drought.

Review of joint projects:

1. Border demarcation. The two parties agreed to jointly inform the Algerian Government of the estimated figures and also of its eventual participation in the financing of exploration and demarcation operations. The joint technical commission will convene immediately to examine Algeria's response.

2. Administration. The Nema conference expressed satisfaction with the spirit in which the task assigned to the governor during the interministerial meeting in Bamako in May 1983 was carried out. It also expressed approval of the practical measures taken to achieve definitive solutions to outstanding issues. The conference calls on the administrative authorities to continue working in this manner to solve the routine problems facing the border populations of these two countries.

Administrative relations:

The conference was also satisfied with the schedule of meetings between the border authorities, and was decided that the next meeting of governors will take place in Ayoun el'Atrous, Mauritania, on 25 April 1984. The conference was informed of several recent incidents, and invited the concerned border authorities at [names indistinct] to find immediate solutions to these problems.

Drought: On this issue, the two delegations examined problems caused by the movement of persons and goods across the border. They noted the exceptional degree of concentration — particularly of cattle — and expressed satisfaction with the spirit of understanding which prevailed throughout the discussions on this issue. The two parties, aware of the importance of this phenomenon, have taken the following measures:

a. Appointment of joint missions composed of political, administrative, and technical authorities in each of the administrative districts concerned. The essential duty of these missions will be to inform, educate, and to invite those concerned to respect the rules in force. They will also determine and evaluate the health and food needs of both the people and the cattle. They will inform the public of the new measures established to ensure a rational utilization of the available resources. The workplan for these missions will be drawn up by the governors of the affected regions.

B. The national directors in charge of stockbreeding, as well as the representatives of the stockbreeders, will, under the auspices of the Ministry of Interior in Bamako, examine the reports to be submitted by the mission on or before 15 February 1984.

c. The conference called on the authorities to send adequate supplies of food to the officials along the border so that the people there might be fed.

The Mauritanian party was satisfied with the brotherly and privileged reception accorded to Mauritanian stockbreeders in

Mali. It expressed satisfaction with the solicitude of the Malians, despite their economic difficulties.

The conference noted with satisfaction the fraternal and friendly atmosphere and the frankness which prevailed throughout the deliberations.

The Malian delegation was touched by the warm and fraternal reception it was accorded throughout its visit to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. It expresses gratitude to the CMSN, its chairman, Lieutenant Colonel Khouna Ould Haydala, the government, and the people of that country.

The communique was signed for Mali by Lieutenant Colonel Abderhamane Maiga [minister of interior] and for Mauritania by Colonel Ahmedou Ould Abdallah [minister of interior].

SUDAN

At-Tayyib Concludes Tour of Upper Nile

Addresses Bentiu Rally

JN211034 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Khartoum Dec 21 (SUNA) — First Vice President 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib arrived here yesterday concluding a two day visit to the Upper Nile region.

Addressing a mass rally in Bentiu just before his departure to Khartoum, At-Tayyib assured the citizens that the security situation on the eastern borders of the region was stable and under full control of the Peoples Armed Forces. He urged the citizens to cooperate with the Peoples Armed Forces to report on the hideouts of the outlaws and their movements. At-Tayyib said he was informed that the outlaws were two groups: One is engaged in obstructing work on oil exploration and Jonglei Canal and the other is looting the cattle of the citizens to sell them in other areas. He said he would work to form tribal chieftains guards to prevent looting in the region.

At-Tayyib expressed his personal concern over the region's problems on top of which was to make the western part of the region a province with Bentiu as its capital. He said police stations, harmed by the recent events, could be reopened and promised to exert efforts to clean the river path which links Malakal and Bentiu.

At-Tayyib said he would brief President Numayri on these issues for further consideration.

He praised the services provided by Chevron Oil Company of Sudan in the area in health field and roads maintenance. He said Sudan's discovered oil would be utilized for the development of the country to enable the country to occupy an outstanding position in the Arab and African worlds.

He said the Peoples Armed Forces had fought a major battle in Malwal against the outlaws. The outlaws' plan was to take over Malwal post and kill the soldiers there but the garrison stood fast and managed to kill 480 of the bandits and we have come to know that hospitals in Addis Ababa and Gambela have been filled with wounded outlaws, he said. Losses among the Peoples Armed Forces were seven dead and 13 wounded soldiers, he added.

He said another attack was launched at Nasir but the Army had managed to break the siege on the town. The outlaws losses were very high in this battle and the army is now chasing them like dogs near the Ethiopian border and I would like to tell you that the eastern area is now secure, he said.

SSU [Sudanese Socialist Union] secretary for the western district said the masses had confirmed their commitment to the May revolution through their cooperation with the Peoples Armed Forces against the outlaws. He appealed to the first vice president, to pay due concern to the fact that the region bordering on several regions causes tribal disputes.

At-Tayyib visited Bentiu military garrison and was briefed on the security situation in the region, which he described as satisfactory.

Reports to Numayri

EA212137 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] At 0900 today, the president of the republic, Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, received Major General 'Umar Muhammad At-Tayyib, first vice president of the republic, who presented a comprehensive report to his excellency on the results of his visit to the Upper Nile region.

In a press statement following the meeting, his excellency declared that he briefed the president on the security situation in the Upper Nile region. He added that this evaluation came in the wake of [words indistinct] to which the Nasir area was exposed by a group of outlaws, who suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of the People's Armed Forces. The Army then chased their scattered remnants toward the Ethiopian border as part of the mopping-up operation they are conducting in the region.

In his report to the president, the first vice president explained the (?security measures) that were taken to confront such attempts at sabotage. These measures began with the training of police in the use of modern weapons and the provision of arms to the sultans' guards [words indistinct].

The first vice president added that he briefed the president on the next stage of policy toward the region, which was reviewed by the area's governor before the inaugural session of the First Regional People's Assembly.

The first vice president also declared in his press statement that he informed the president of the republic of Bentiu's wish to be elevated to the status of a province.

The president directed that a study be prepared on this matter.

Paris Diplomat Alleges French-Libyan 'Conspiracy'

JN211618 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Dec (SUNA) — The Sudanese news agency, SUNA, has received a serious written message from a French diplomat in Paris who is a friend of Sudan. The message notes the existence of a French-Libyan conspiracy aimed at Sudan with the objective of forcing it to revoke its Islamic law.

The message said that the French Government has asked all French companies with business in Sudan to delay implementing their agreements with our country and to support the outlaws in order to pressure the Sudanese Government into revoking its Islamic laws.

In his message to SUNA, the friendly diplomat affirmed that the French Government has drawn up a plan with the director of the French company working on the Jonglei Canal project to delay the execution of that project. He said that the company planned to pretend that the delay was due to malfunctioning excavators and to fabricate attacks, which would then be followed by claims that the workers on the site had stopped working out of fear for their lives.

In his message to SUNA, the diplomat said: At this point, I would like to highlight the relationship between the director of the French company working on the Jonglei Canal project and the outlaws in the region. The evidence confirms that he supplied them with food and fuel.

The message said that the director of that company had promised French officials that he could — through a work slowdown — delay the completion of the Jonglei Canal project as a first step toward implementing the plan that has been drawn up [against Sudan]. The message indicated that the company director has refused several offers of protection for his workers and equipment, and that he sent a report to officials in Khartoum urging them to meet the demands of the outlaws when several company workers were kidnapped last month.

The diplomat declared in his message: I am writing this to inform you of both the Paris government's plans, and to alert you to the fact that its declarations run counter to its actions. I realize that there will be an investigation of my leaking this information to you. I state that Libya is involved in this plot, and that the two countries are coordinating their efforts. This plotting is not the first of its kind. The world has already witnessed it in Chad and in several West African countries which enjoyed French protection and were suddenly swept away as a result of such coordination.

WESTERN SAHARA

SDAR Communique on Moroccan Offensive Cited

LD212054 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] A communique issued today by the Saharan Ministry of Information confirmed that fierce battles are now under way between the revolutionaries of the Saharan People's Liberation Army and the forces of the Moroccan Army in the region of Lahcheicha, west of Amgala and 50 km from Bu Craa.

The communique added that following 3 months of intense preparations, the Moroccan Army has launched a new military adventure with an estimated 25,000 soldiers, equipped with heavy weapons and supported by the Air Force.

The communique pointed out that this adventure is taking place a few days before the expiration of the deadline set for the implementation of the OAU peace plan for Sahara.

ETHIOPIA

Egyptian Military Delegation Reportedly in Khartoum

EA192133 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] Reports from reliable sources indicate that a five-man high-level military delegation led by the Egyptian chief of staff and combat aircraft of the Egyptian Air Force have arrived in Khartoum following secret discussions in Cairo between Presidents Numayri and Mubarak. The sources have repeatedly indicated and concrete facts show that there is public unrest as a result of differences between the Sudanese Government and people. It is believed that President Numayri's urgent and secret meeting in Cairo is related to this situation.

Eritrean Rebels Reports Battle Successes

EA201542 (Clandestine) Voice of Western Somalia and Abo Liberation Front in Somali 1200 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] An official statement from the Eritrean People's Liberation Front [EPLF] said that front fighters killed over 115 black Abyssinian soldiers and wounded many others in a fierce attack on black Abyssinian positions at (Epsibarai). Large quantities of arms and ammunition were also destroyed.

Further reports say that the gallant EPLF fighters made a fierce attack on a place situated 30 km from Asmara. The attack, on December, left 35 black Abyssinian soldiers dead and over 60 others wounded, and included the capture of huge quantities of arms.

In the same week EPLF fighters launched another raid at (Labyan Barada), 20 km east of (Iskolis). During the fighting, front fighters totally destroyed the enemy camp.

15-16 Dec Clashes Detailed

EA211612 (Clandestine) Voice of Western Somalia and Abo Liberation Front in Somali 1200 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Bitter fighting took place on 15 and 16 December between the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) fighters and the black colonialist Abyssinian soldiers at Anseba in Eritrean territory.

The objective of the black colonialist Abyssinian forces was to forcefully conscript Eritrean youth into the colonialist Abyssinian army and turn them against their own people.

The EPLF forces inflicted great setbacks on the black colonialist soldiers, forcing them to retreat to their bases with (?12) soldiers dead and 78 others wounded. The gallant EPLF fighters captured 11 AK rifles, 2 automatic rifles, several light rifles, pistols and a large quantity of ammunition.

The report adds that on 15 December the EPLF fighters and the black colonialist Abyssian soldiers were engaged in fighting at (Sanfi), where the Abyssinian forces were repulsed to their bases with two soldiers dead and six others wounded.

The EPLF fighters denied the black colonialist Abyssinian forces any access to the liberation Eritrean territory. After their great setbacks the Abyssinian soldiers regrouped and returned to their bases carrying some of their wounded comrades.

Ambush in Hagaz Area

EA211337 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] In the Hagaz area the heroic EPLF [Eritrean People's Liberation Front] forces ambushed an enemy force that moved from Hagaz area and left it with many dead and captured. In a clash on 16th December, our heroic peoples militia forces killed 20 Ethiopian soldiers and wounded 31, captured six soldiers, 14 assorted weapons, one RPG-7, one pistol and other enemy equipment.

UGANDA

Obote Returns From Harare Summit Meeting

EA211557 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Summary] President Obote has returned home from the summit meeting in Harare. He was received at Entebbe Airport by Vice President Paulo Muwanga, ministers and other high-ranking government and military officials.

CHAD

UND Claims 139 Killed in Fighting in Oct, Nov

AB211810 Paris AFP in French 1414 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Cotonou, 21 Dec (AFP) — One-hundred-and-thirty-nine people died in southern Chad during violent clashes that took place in October and November between the forces of President Hissein Habre and commando groups supporting Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] President Goukouni Oueddei. This was disclosed today in Cotonou (Benin) by some leaders of the National Democratic Union [UND], one of the factions supporting the GUNT.

According to the UND, the commando groups of the GUNT's National Liberation Army [ANL] based near the Cameroonian border in southern Chad suffered no losses when they attacked on 12 October the Motoumoro village in the Mayo-Kebi prefecture, not far from Cameroon, killing 19 of President Habre's fighters.

On 21 November, the ANL forces captured the Ba-Illi area in the Chari-Baguirmi prefecture, killing 117 of the Ndjamena troops and losing 3 on their own side, the UND asserted.

Dr Facho Balam, the principal leader of the UND, explained to AFP that his armed elements numbering about 800 men recently intercepted messages from the Ndjamena military headquarters asking the government troops to no longer fear the counterattack of the ANL commando groups so as not to reveal the weakness of the president's military position in the south before the opening of the negotiations on national reconciliation next month at the OAU headquarters in Addis Ababa.

Dr Balam finally explained that the armed groups operating in the south toward the CAR border included soldiers from the south, dissidents from Ndjamena who have denied the authority of President Habre, as well as that of Abdelkader Kamougue, one of the leaders of the factions, the Chadian Armed Forces,and vice president of GUNT.

CONGO

Nguesso, Bongo Cited on Bangui Summit, Chad

AB212300 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Excerpts] The summit of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa [UDEAC] ended yesterday in Bangui. The president of the republic, who represented our country, returned to the capital at 1230. Correspondent Moise Mougou, who is still at the Mayamaya International Airport, now reports for Radio Congo news:

Comrade Denis Sassou-Nguesso, chairman of the Central Committee, and his Gabonese counterpart, Omar Bongo, have just left the Mayamaya Airport for the presidential residence. The two heads of state have just taken part in the 19th session of heads of state of UDEAC member-countries and the Brazzaville technical stopover is within the framework of permanent consulations instituted by the Congolese and Gabonese presidents. In the interview he just granted to newsmen, President Omar Bongo expressed satisfaction over the successful Bangui summit and the Chadian delegation's desire to rejoin the UDEAC. President Bongo also spoke of the 20th anniversary of the UDEAC which will be held in Brazzaville:

[Begin Bongo recording] The Bangui summit was a huge success because we witnessed the admission of Equatorial Guinea. We also noted the Chadian president's request to rejoin the UDEAC. We also made the decision to celebrate in a grand fashion — so to speak — the 20th anniversary of the UDEAC, which will be held in Brazzaville, since President Denis Sassou-Nguesso will be the UDEAC chairman beginning next January. These are very important events for the UDEAC. We should not forget the talks we held with one another and which, in my view, dealt with very important issues. In one word, I will say that I was very satisfied with the Bangui summit. [end recording]

As you know, the chairman of the Central Committee was named the UDEAC chairman on Tuesday. Brazzaville will therefore host the 20th ordinary session of the Council of Heads of State in December 1984, which will coincide with the 20th anniversary of the union. The chairman of the Central Committee explained what Congo's concerns for next year will be:

[Begin Sassou-Nguesso recording] The UDEAC summit will be held in Brazzaville. The occasion will also mark the 20th anniversary of the union. The union was set up in Brazzaville in 1964 and it will mark its 20th anniversary in Brazzaville. We believe it will be a real opportunity for us to take stock of the union's activities, to chart other courses, and to view other perspectives. [end recording]

Concerning the talks he held with his counterparts in Bangui, in particular with Chadian head of state Hissein Habre, President Denis Sassou-Nguesso said that in light of the talks he held with Goukouni Oueddei, president of the Transitional National Union Government, here in Brazzaville and with President Hissein Habre in Bangui, he was optimistic about the possibility of a happy outcome to the Addis Ababa conference, the aim of which is national reconciliation in Chad. Concerning the issue of Chad's reintegration in particular, President Denis Sassou-Nguesso told Gabonese newsmen:

[Begin Sassou-Nguesso recording] It is a new issue. On several occasions, several Chadian heads of state expressed the desire to come back to the union. In Libreville, President Goukouni — at that time — stated that if he went to Libreville as an observer, he did not intend to go to Yaounde as an observer again. This means that for a long time now, the Chadian authorities have continued to express the desire to return to the Union. During the Bangui summit, instructions were given to the General Secretariat to work toward this end. Chad did not just leave the Union for no reason. It seems that there were problems. After all these issues are examined at the level of the General Secretariat, we shall then have a document to discuss at the next summit. It is not the duty of the current chairman alone to decide. It is rather the duty of the Council of the Heads of State. [end recording]

GABON

Bongo Returns Following Economic Summit

AB212150 Libreville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] El-Hadj Omar Bongo has taken part in the summit of the heads of state of the Customs and Economic Union of the Central Africa. The president of the republic and his delegation returned home this afternoon.

On his way to Libreville, President Bongo made a technical stopover in Brazzaville where he held talks with Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso. On his arrival at Leon Mba International Airport, El-Hadj Omar Bongo spoke to the press. He stressed the success of the Bangui conference. [passage indistinct]

RWANDA

Preliminary Figures Show Habyarimana Re-elected

EA211156 Kigali Domestic Service in French 0430 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Excerpt] President Habyarimana was re-elected by a big majority after the presidential elections conducted throughout the republic last Monday.

Although provisional, the results published yesterday by prefects are unquestionable. Rwandan people gave almost unanimous consent to the father of the 5 July 1973 moral revolution's new 5-year mandate as our head of state.

BENIN

GUNT's Goukouni Continues Official Visit

Views Upcoming Roundtable Conference

AB192215 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] Today is the second day of President Goukouni Oueddei's official visit to Benin. The president of the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] of Chad met with an important Chadian community this morning. The group, made up of young secondary and university students, expressed their support for the GUNT, the legitimate government born of the Lagos accord. This afternoon, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Chadians living in Cotonou held a frank and direct meeting with their president. The political and military situation, the problem of Chadian refugees, the 9 January roundtable conference, and the establishment of the National Liberation Council were all discussed.

The GUNT president began by presenting a balance sheet to his compatriots dealing with the political and military situation in the field. First, he spoke of events from 7 June 1982 to the relaunching of the offensives and the arrival of the foreign invasion forces. President Goukouni outlined the various aspects of the Addis Ababa roundtable conference, and explained the basis upon which the GUNT intends to negotiate in Addis Ababa.

[Begin Goukouni recording] The Chadian problem does not concern only Chadians. It is a problem with far-reaching effects. Chad has somehow become the stake of the superpowers, so we must be conscious of this danger and able to measure it.

As for reconciliation, there will certainly be a roundtable conference on 9 January. It will bring together the factions which signed the Lagos accord. At this point, we cannot tell you if, after the 9 January meeting, there will be a final reconciliation. The only thing we know is that we are going there with a sincere desire to restore peace to the country so that our refugees may return home. We shall see how far our principle will go in this direction. We are prepared to restore peace to the country in an honorable way, and not with humiliation or dishonor. This is why we categorically reject any recognition of Hissein as president of Chad. This is also why we refuse to meet with him on such grounds and discuss ways to restore the peace. [applause]

We agree — despite the crimes perpetrated by Hissein and with the aim of returning peace to our country — to meet with him, to negotiate with him as the leader of one faction that signed the Lagos accord and not as head of state. [applause] If he refuses to attend this meeting, then we say that Hissein has refused peace and everyone can form his own opinion.

Concerning the issue of government, we know that the legitimate government of the Chadian people is the GUNT, which was born of the Lagos accord, [applause] signed by 11 Chadian factions, 8 of which are taking part in this government. This legitimate government cannot support a group that calls itself a government in Ndjamena. [end recording]

Meets With AFP

AB211745 Paris AFP in French 1220 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Cotonou, 21 Dec (AFP) — Goukouni Oueddei, president of Chad's Transitional National Union Government [GUNT], said today in Cotonou (Benin) that he would attend the upcoming 9 January national reconciliation meeting at OAU Headquarters in Addis Ababa as a faction leader. "However," Mr Oueddei added during a meeting with AFP, "should Hissein Habre (who is now in power in Ndjamena) unfortunately go there as a head of state, I will immediately change my position. This is so because if one must talk of a legitimate government, the only legitimate one is the GUNT, which I lead." "The 1982 OAU summit in Nairobi specifically made this decision, which remains in force," he declared.

Mr Oueddei, who paid a 3-day visit to Benin, emphasized the fact that he has adopted this conciliatory attitude because of his desire to restore peace to Chad, which has been "martyred by several years of war."

The GUNT president described himself as "optimistic" about the negotiations:

He explained that: "We are going to Addis Ababa with the determination to do everything possible to restore peace (...) with the exception of recognizing Hissein Habre as the legitimate president of Chad."

Goukouni Oueddei feels that French troops can serve as a "buffer force." "The OAU forces," he said, "have failed in their mission as well as their (?role)."

He explained that he "personally" had nothing against Hissein Habre. "Around 1975, I shared the same cloth and dish with him. I do not believe that there is any sort of hatred between Hissein and myself. Hissein is the Americans' man, the arm of imperialism, neocolonialism, dictatorship, and repression," he declared. "With Hissein, Chad has become the promised land for Zionism, apartheid, and racism. It is difficult for me to accept such a man. I hope he will understand the situation of our country and people, and withdraw from political life," Goukouni continued.

The Chadian leader, whose forces withdrew to the north in June of 1982, stated that he, too, is prepared to "withdraw totally and finally from the political scene" if that can contribute to the restoration of peace, "leaving room for motivated and dynamic young people who are capable of leading Chad to other horizons and are not implicated in the current misfortune." The GUNT president also regretted the fact that after 23 years of independence, "French units have returned to Chad to take sides with the Zairian forces, the Israeli and South African advisers, and all kinds of mercenaries."

However, Goukouni Oueddei is of the opinion that the French forces could serve as a buffer. "The OAU forces," he said, "failed

in both their mission and responsibility in 1982. If Chadians can understand one another, we can ask the French forces to play this role in order to ensure security." He explained that the "French Government must remain neutral in this conflict before negotiations begin. In that case, French forces would be mixed with others and placed under the mandate of the OAU and the United Nations."

Mr Oueddei concluded by noting that the problem of the Aouzou Strip — 150,000 square km of land in northern Chad along its border with Libya and under military occupation by the latter since 1973 — "can be resolved through diplomatic channels." "I support the territorial integrity of Chad, but as far as I am concerned, the problem of the Aouzou Strip is a small one. My concern is to restore peace and justice to Chad. Once peace and justice are restored, we can settle this amicably with Libya, just as Mali and Upper Volta are now doing with their border problem," he stated.

Comments on French Troops

LD211533 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] With regard to the Chadian domestic scene, one may note the continuation of the trip by Goukouni Oueddei — leader of the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] — to those countries sympathetic to him. Following a visit to the Congo, he is now in Benin. He declared in Cotonou that he and his friends have prepared a peace plan that will be released during next month's reconciliation meeting in Addis Ababa. Goukouni Oueddei also mentioned the presence of French troops in Chad.

[Begin Goukouni recording] The presence of French troops in Chad represents a great evil for us, but we have been able to swallow that pill and find a solution. [Word indistinct] when it arrived, France imposed a sort of demarcation line on us, with one of two intentions: to either blockade us in the north and crush our forces fighting in the center, east, or south of the country, or to lay down a kind of de facto secession, a de facto partition of the country. As far as these two things are concerned, we have no intention whatsoever of bowing to the demands of the great powers. We are determined to reconstitute ourselves in force from Bardai, and to liberate the entire nation without surrendering a single inch of territory. [end recording]

GUINEA

Angola's Dos Santos Arrives 20 December

Sekou Toure Welcomes Visitor

AB211145 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1945 GMT 20 Dec 83

[President Sekou Toure's welcoming speech to Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos on his arrival in Conakry on 20 December on an official visit — recorded]

[Excerpts] Your Excellency Mr President of the People's Republic of Angola Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos [applause], dear brothers and leading cadres of the MPLA: The Guinean people, their revolutionary party, the Central Committee of the Guinean party-state, and the government, are very happy about the friendly and fraternal visit you are now paying them. On this occasion, we would like to express the pride and profound joy of all the cadres and militants of the Guinean Democratic Party [PDG] who, in the glorious days of the liberation struggle, vigorously expressed their firm determination to remain the comrades-in-arms of the militants and cadres of the MPLA. In fact, the proclamation of Guinea's independence on 2 October 1958 has been inscribed in our continent's history as the point of opening and amplification for the liberation struggles against the regimes of foreign domination. In Guinea-Bissau, the Cape Verde Islands, Angola, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, and throughout all of southern Africa, fighters immediately took up arms in order to reconquer the dignity and freedom that had been confiscated by foreign usurpers. Since the creation of the MPLA, the PDG has continued to maintain relations of militant cooperation with it. This means that we were not merely observers of the process through which the Portuguese colony of Angola was transformed into a sovereign country and people; we lived through all the events and all the struggles thanks to which this transformation — a result of the courage and determination of the Angolan people, assisted by all anti-imperialist elements in the world — was carried out. [applause]

We know that the Angolan people demonstrated a fierce determination to free themselves, and they did so on 11 November 1975. [applause] The PDG is happy to have stood by your side. [applause] The army of the African revolution in Guinea, which has just marched past, fought beside you against the South African troops and the Angolan mercenaries in the service of South Africa. Some Guineans fell on Angolan soil. This means that the trials of life have brought our two peoples closer together. In addition, the choices of both peoples were identical; they are still identical and we hope that they shall always remain identical, because our two peoples will always remain anti-imperialist and anticolonialist. [applause] This is to say that now more than ever, the Guinean people are the brothers of the Angolan people. [applause]

At this point, please allow me to pay tribute to all the Angolan fighters who sacrificed their lives for the rehabilitation of the whole of Africa through the liberation of Angola. We pay tribute to that famous fighter who had been our comrade-in-arms for many years and whose degree of political commitment, whose loyalty to the people, and, most of all, whose degree of determination to liberate his people we greatly appreciated. We are referring to our departed brother, Antonio Agostinho Neto. [applause]

Mr President, we also appreciate your qualities, your devotion to duty, your wisdom, your modesty, and especially your loyalty to Africa and Angola. [applause] This is why I have the pleasant duty to encourage you to maintain, further develop, and strengthen these qualities and virtues so that — despite all the difficulties which imperialism may create for them — the Angolan people may always be victorious in all their struggles for total rehabilitation. [applause]

You are now paying a heavy price for the liberation of Namibia, the stronghold which imperialism would like to keep as its own.

But the fact is that the whole of Africa demands the immediate liberation of the Namibian people. [applause]

Dear brothers, we welcome you. We want you to know that you are still on Angolan soil. Consider yourselves to be leaders and militants of the Guinean revolution! [applause] We wish you success at the head of the State of Angola. We wish the MPLA the greatest victories in the implementation of its program for the emancipation of the Angolan people. Africa belongs to all of us. We will build it together and rehabilitate it in every facet of its existence. We will not make it a beggar continent that is despised, neglected, and ignored, but, rather, a continent of dignity and respect; a continent whose contributions to mankind will be appreciated by the other peoples of the world. That is why we again exclaim: Long live African unity! Long live African progress! Long live the People's Republic of Angola! Long live international peace and cooperation! Ready for production! [applause]

Dos Santos Replies

AB211225 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1945 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos' reply to President Sekou Toure's welcoming speech on his arrival in Conakry on 20 December on official visit — recorded in Portuguese with sentence by sentence translation into French]

[Excerpts] Comrade President Ahmed Sekou Toure, comrade members of the Political Bureau of the Guinean Democratic Party [PDG], dear comrades and brothers: We are deeply touched and satisfied by the very warm and fraternal reception accorded us by Comrade Ahmed Sekou Toure, the militants of the PDG, and the people of Conakry since our arrival today. We have paid close attention to the slogans of the party militants. We have seen these slogans written on walls, and have noted your revolutionary ardor. We have also noted the identity between the policies and principles of the PDG and the MPLA-Labor Party. [applause] We know that it was here in Conakry that the leaders of the MPLA established themselves during the early years of our struggle for national liberation. [Passage indistinct] We studied the experiments conducted by the PDG and observed the life of the Guinean people during the transformation of their colonial society — characterized by the exploitation of man by man — into a society of peace and progress.

Our struggle was a very long one. Thoughout our national liberation struggle, we enjoyed the solidarity of the PDG. [applause] We have always had the support of your party and of Comrade Ahmed Sekou Toure in every international forum, including the United Nations, the OAU, and the Nonaligned Movement. Comrade Ahmed Sekou Toure — like such other distinguished leaders of our continent as Julius Nyerere and Kwame Nkrumah — continued to provide us with his experience and advice in our diplomatic action, which was aimed at accelerating the political liberation of not only the former Portuguese colonies, but of the entire African Continent. We have come here to express, on behalf of the MPLA-Labor Party and the Angolan people, our deep gratitude and our active solidarity with the PDG under the leadership of Comrade Ahmed Sekou Toure. [applause]

Comrade Ahmed Sekou Toure has just stressed the difficulties which the Angolan people had to overcome in order to ensure their independence. In fact, there was a great imperialist plot to destroy both the MPLA and all the achievements of the Angolan people. At that difficult time, and with the support of all militant Africans, we of the MPLA defended our freedom with dignity; we courageously defended Africa's dignity. [Passage indistinct]

Like the Guinean people, we Angolans want to create a completely — economically and politically — free society in our country. We are here in Guinea to exchange experience. We are also here to study Guinea's experiments in the revolutionary transformation of Guinean society. We have come to Guinea to hold talks with Comrade President Sekou Toure and the leaders of the PDG concerning the major problems of the peoples of southern Africa and of the other peoples on our continent. [Passage indistinct]

In my name and on behalf of the delegation accompanying me, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for the warm reception accorded us today by Comrade Ahmed Sekou Toure and the people of Conakry. To conclude, I would like to convey to you the militant and revolutionary greetings of the fighters of the MPLA-Labor Party and of the entire Angolan people. Long live the friendship between Angola and Guinea! Down with imperialism! Down with neocolonialism! Down with apartheid! Long live the African revolution! The struggle continues! Victory is certain! [applause]

MALI

Goukouni Arrives in Bamako, To Meet With Traore

AB211825 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Goukouni Oueddei, GUNT chairman, arrived in Bamako today at 1245 from Benin by a special flight. He was met at the airport by Mohamed Oum Ag Hamani, secretary for external relations of the Central Executive Bureau; Alioune Blondin Beye, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, and their associates.

Chairman Goukouni is in Mali to meet President Moussa Traore, secretary general of the Democratic Union of Malian People and president of the republic, with the view to finding a peaceful solution to the Chadian crisis. Chairman Goukouni Oueddei has already visited Congo and Benin where he stated that he has a relative plan for a peaceful settlement of the Chadian crisis. He is accompanied by a nine-member delegation including Hadoum Hamda, secretary of state for finance; Abdel Hamane Issa, government secretary general; Mohamed Louale, personal undersecretary to Chairman Goukouni; and [name indistinct], minister of information.

Soon after arrival, the GUNT chairman was received by the president of the republic. Their meeting is still going on. Before

leaving Cotonou yesterday, the GUNT chairman said he would attend the Addis Ababa Chadian national reconciliation meeting scheduled for 9 January 1984 in his capacity as leader of the Chadian factions. Nevertheless, Mr Oueddei pointed out, if by any chance Hissein Habre attends the meeting as head of state, my stand will be revised immediately because, with regard to legitimate governments, the only legitimate government is the GUNT, of which I am the chairman. The OAU summit made this decision in Nairobi in 1982 and it must be respected, he said.

NIGERIA

Foreign Minister Talks With Perez de Cuellar

AB211345 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Nigeria's external affairs minister, Mr Emeka Anyaoku, and his counterparts from four other countries have had talks with the United Nations Secretary General Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar on the situation in Cyprus. The other ministers are from Guyana, Zambia, India, and Australia. The Commonwealth secretary general, Mr Shridath Ramphal, was also present at the talks. The last Commonwealth summit in New Delhi had mandated the countries to seek an examination of the crisis in Cyprus when the Turkish Cypriots declared unilateral independence.

UPPER VOLTA

DPRK Envoy Speaks at Cultural Week Ceremony

AB211440 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Excerpts] One of the highlights of this first day of Cultural Week which opened today in Ouagadougou was the laying of the foundation stone of the People's Theater by the head of state, Comrade Thomas Sankara. The ceremony took place on the banks of the Kadiogo Stream in Ouagadougou at 1800. This ceremony was witnessed by political and administrative authorities, the people of the capital, and representatives of the diplomatic corps, especially the Embassy of the DPRK which will be the major contractor for the construction of the People's Theater. The ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, His Excellency Kim Yang-yong, took the opportunity to reiterate the strong bonds of friendship between our two countries.

[Begin Yang recording] Today, on the occasion of National Cultural Week, we are very happy (?to be with you). This foundation stone-laying ceremony for the construction of the People's Theater will be the symbol of the development of the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the DPRK and the People's Revolutionary Republic of Upper Volta. The construction of the People's Theater was commissioned by the eminent leader Comrade Thomas Sankara. [applause] It is an honor for the people and the youth of Upper Volta. After the 4 August Revolution, Upper Volta engaged itself on the path of a new life for the welfare of the Upper Voltan people and against imperialism and colonialism.

The National Council of the Revolution [CNR], led by Comrade Thomas Sankara, presented its program of action in October and is taking progressive measures and has already gotten the support of the people to fight for the implementation of that program. The CNR and the revolutionary Upper Voltan Government strongly supports the struggle of the peoples of Africa, Asia, and Latin America for their total independence. The Government of the DPRK and the Korean people express their total support for the Upper Voltan people's struggle against imperialist and colonialist [words indistinct].

Comrades, today the Korean people, under the clear-sighted leadership of Comrade Kim Il-song and of the beloved comrade [name indistinct], have undertaken the task of building socialism. After the liberation, the Korean people decided to do away with imperialism and colonialism, to establish a democratic people's regime, and to reconstruct a people's economy as defined by the (?government). Today, the Korean people are determined to transform our country into a socialist and industrial country, thanks to the policy of economic independence and self-reliance in national defense, and they are waging a vigorous struggle for the edification of a socialist economy in the 1980's. The Korean people are also fighting for the unification of their fatherland and strongly support the African people's struggle against imperialism and colonialism and for the total independence of Africa.

Comrades, in spite of the distance between Korea and Upper Volta, the friendly relations between our two countries are getting stronger and stronger every day. The Korean people are determined to march forward with the revolutionary people of Upper Volta in fighting against imperialism and colonialism. The People's Theater being built in Ouagadougou will not only (?improve) the lives of the Upper Voltan youth, but through this theater, the friendly relations between our two countries will be strengthened for our mutual benefit. We, in collaboration with the people of Upper Volta, will do everything in our power for the accomplishment of the construction of the People's Theater which will symbolize the unity of the Upper Voltan people. Long live the friendship between the Upper Voltan and Korean people!

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Returns, Stops in Guinea, Upper Volta

MB220927 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] The chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and President of the People's Republic of Angola, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, returned to Luanda last night after a visit of about 20 hours to Conakry, Guinea, at the invitation of President Ahmed Sekou Toure.

En route home yesterday, Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos made a 1-hour stop at Ouagadougou in Upper Volta, where he had a meeting with the Upper Voltan head of state, Captain Thomas Sankara.

Before his visit to Conakry, it should be recalled, the Angolan head of state participated in a summit of the heads of state of the five Portuguese-speaking African countries.

Defense Ministry Issues Communique on RSA Action

MB211346 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Communique issued by the Defense Ministry on 20 December]

[Text] With a view to disclosing the true aggressive and reactionary nature of the Pretoria minority regime, the Defense Ministry of the People's Republic of Angola has been reporting to the Angolan people and international public opinion the criminal actions carried out by the racist South Africans against the People's Republic of Angola since 14 December 1983.

According to it, on 20 December our troops bravely responded to the racist attacks and put out of action two armored cars in the area of Cahama Municipality. Also in Cahama Municipality, yesterday morning the racist ground forces used artillery fire against one of our troop positions as they moved from Quiteve and Otchinjau to reinforce Cahama Municipality. In the Mulondo area, after its ground forces were repulsed by us the racist enemy carried out various reconnaissance flights, and at 2300 on 19 December a column of our troops was bombed.

Yesterday, between 1603 and 1627, the racist South African Army once again attacked Mulondo with heavy weapons and 150-mm and 140-mm cannon.

In Cuando Cubango Province, the murderous wrath of racist South Africa is also continuing to be felt. On 19 December, between 0552 and 1005, the racist air force carried out reconnaissance flights and bombed the small commune of Caiundo, destroying a school.

Yesterday morning, it also bombed Dinde 55 km from Caiundo.

Nobody can now doubt that the main victims of the barbarous and adventurous acts by the racist South Africans are our defenceless people, who have been working together with the MPLA-Labor Party on the side of our People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola, to arrest the implementation of yet another Machiavelian plan by South African racists and international imperialism.

FAPLA Operations Against UNITA Forces Reported

MB211600 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] In continuation of the offensive being waged by the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] against the complementary forces of the racist South African army, UNITA, another 23 counterrevolutionaries were killed in hot pursuit actions launched by the Angolan fighters from the provinces of Huila, Huambo, Bie, and Cuanza Sul. During operations carried out between 29 November and 7 December 1983, FAPLA forces also captured a large quantity of materiel and military equipment of South African origin and that of other Western countries.

On 29 November, Angolan fighters attacked a group of UNITA counterrevolutionaries supported by South African troops, who took flight in Mulondo region, Huila Province. In Andulo Municipality, Bie Province, FAPLA carried out two operations between 1 and 3 December, killing 10 UNITA bandits and capturing another 6 in addition to a quantity of materiel and military equipment.

In Huambo Province, two counterrevolutionaries were captured in Mungo on 2 December. Four days later, on 6 December, FAPLA combatants carried out an attack on an enemy base in Cuanza Sul, putting out of action another four counterrevolutionaries and seizing a quantity of light weapons.

In Bie on 7 December, FAPLA carried out another military operation in which another nine UNITA bandits were killed and a number of light weapons and some ammunition was captured.

Fighting 19-20 Dec Observed

AB211630 Luanda Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The Angolan Armed Forces destroyed two armored vehicles of the South African forces yesterday, 20 December 1983, in the area of Cahama. Earlier, the racist ground forces launched an artillery attack on our forces in the Cahama area. At the same time, reinforcements left Quiteve and Ochinjau toward Cahama.

The racist forces also made several reconnaissance flights in the Mulengo area on 19 December at 2300, and bombed a column of our troops. The racist army of Pretoria yesterday around 1600 again attacked Mulengo with cannon artillery of 155 and 240 mm.

Furthermore, in the province of Cuando-Cubango, the South African Army made reconnaissance flights on 19 December and bombed the towns of Caumbo and Dimbo, 55 km from Matende.

Talks With CPSU on Cooperation, Information Ties

AB211705 Luanda Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Talks and discussions on information and propaganda between the MPLA-Labor Party and the CPSU continue in Luanda. At the center of the discussions is the cooperation existing between the information and propaganda organs of Angola and the Soviet Union and the definition of new activities for the coming years.

It must be said here that both in Angola and the Soviet Union propaganda and information activities are under the party's control. During its stay in the People's Republic of Angola, the Soviet delegation will also hold talks with the director of the Department of Information and Propaganda here and the director of the Department of Political and Ideological Education of the Central Committee [words indistinct]. It will also visit the premises of the information center. Yesterday, the delegation paid visits to the heaquarters of the Angolan daily and the Angolan news agency.

The delegation, which has been in our country since Friday, is led by Mr Spiridonov, division head in the Propaganda Department, and also includes Mr Yuriy Onishchenko of the International Information Department, and Mr Krivtsov, lecturer at the Social Science Institute of the Central Committee of the CPSU. The Angolan side is led by Mr (Olympio de Souza), head of the Department of Propaganda and Agitation.

UNITA Urges Meeting With MPLA by March 1984

MB211728 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Comrades and compatriots, in its ardent desire to replace the Portuguese colonialists in the exploitation of Angola's resources, early in its adventure the Kremlin was unable to foresee the sad and lugubrious end which would result from the firm determination of the Angolan people to become completely free. The ill-conceived dream of Brezhnev, which was bequeathed to Yuriy Andropov, is imperialist filth which is condemned by contemporary mankind.

Our resistance has been worthy of our efforts, for it has become a living example to the peoples of Poland, Cambodia, and Laos. It is a living example of the peoples of Ethiopia, Eritrea, Afghanistan, and all other peoples who are resisting, with arms in hand, the attempts for Soviet domination of their countries. Comrade President Dr Savimbi has said, "As we know how to fight, we must also know how to win." Our fight is aimed at expelling the Cubans and the entire imperialist coalition in the pay of Moscow and at overthrowing the minority and illegitimate government of the MPLA warlords in order to install a genuine black majority government.

In this context, Comrade President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FALA] General Savimbi decreed 1983 as a year of anti-Cuban efforts. Responding to his command, we have witnessed the escalation of the nationwide armed struggle and the successful expansion of the UNITA forces to all areas in general, and to the north of the country in particular. The resounding FALA victories in Lumaum, Alto Catumbela, Mussende, Munhango, and so forth marked the beginning of a new phase in the struggle of the Angolan people in the march to the north. The 11-day battle in Cangamba tested and proved the fighting capacity of the UNITA forces in confrontation with an enemy who is reinforced by Cuban and Russian brigades and enjoys a wide range of heavy and modern ground and air weapons. Cangamba gave confidence in and assurance of the new FALA fighting capacity in the anti-Cuban struggle. The UNITA Central Committee and the FALA Supreme Command did not hesitate to meet at that location to assess the first offensive, which proved to be very successful, and prepare a second general offensive. This offensive had to reach Luanda Province.

On 3 November 1983, UNITA forces launched the second general offensive. The armed combat — the struggle through clandestine organization and urban guerrilla warfare — at the command of Comrade and Supreme Commander Gen Savimbi, was promptly intensified, and it impetuously advanced and achieved results which are now visible to Angola, the African Continent, and the world. Luanda has already felt the strength of UNITA and its armed forces in a strong attack on Massangano. International public opinion did not doubt this deed — which proved the great fighting spirit of the FALA forces in fulfilling their mission within the prescribed time — and promptly reacted by announcing to the four winds the approach of UNITA forces to the capital, Luanda. We shall not stop here. Massangano is just a warning. The march is continuing relentlessly to Luanda city, where the ringleaders of treason are sheltered.

Here we once again announce the warning of the UNITA Central Committee on 22 November 1983, year of the anti-Cuban campaign. We quote: The MPLA will have to think realistically and hold a dialogue, or face the inevitable. UNITA wants a meeting with the MPLA by the end of March 1984, for the final decisive and bloody fight can be prevented if we hold a dialogue by then. The Angolan nation is for all of us. Angola for Angolans and Cuba for Cubans.

The fatherland is not a matter for discussion. It is something to be defended. We must be the ones to decide in Angola.

The struggle triumphs! United behind Comrade President Dr Savimbi, we shall win!

BOTSWANA

Talks Held With Zimbabwe on Border Tension

MB211210 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1125 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Talks were being held this morning at Plumtree, the border town of Zimbabwe, between representatives of the governments of Botswana and Zimbabwe following a shootout yesterday

around Ramokgwebane which resulted in the death of a man suspected to be a Zimbabwean soldier.

The minister of public service and information, Mr Daniel Kwelagobe, had to interrupt his current tour of the villages along the border with Zimbabwe to head a delegation to the second session of talks on the mounting tension along the border between the two countries. The first border talks were held last month following the unprecedented exchange of fire between the Botswana Defense Force [BDF] and the Zimbabwe National Army [ZNA] around the Maitengwe area.

The Botswana delegation comprises the permanent secretary to the president, Mr (Festus Mogae); the commander of the BDF, Major General Mompati Merafhe; the head of the Special Branch of the Botswana Police, Mr (Adolf Geshveldt); the platoon commander whose men were involved in the shootout, and a senior policeman in Francistown. The delegation is expected back home today, and the minister of public service and information was to continue his border tour this afternoon. The previous talks were held in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

COMOROS

France Doubles Aid, Affirms Defense Role

AB210752 Paris AFP in English 0727 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Moroni, Dec 21 (AFP) — France is to double its aid to the Comoro Islands and have exclusive responsibility for their defence, Minister for Cooperation and Development Christian Nucci said here Tuesday after the first meeting of a new Franco-Comoros Joint Commission. He gave no details of the defence commitment, but said it was requested by President Ahmed Abdallah, who holds the defence portfolio in the government of the Indian Ocean archipelago. French officers have been training the National Army of some 800 men under a 1979 agreement.

Mr Nucci and Comoros Foreign Minister Said Kafe signed an agreement for a 400 million Comoro franc (one million dollars) subsidy from France to balance the islands' current budget.

Mr Nucci referred only briefly to the dispute over Mayotte, the island still administered by France. Its inhabitants have twice voted in referendums since the unilateral declaration of independence here in 1975 to stay linked with France. The minister said there were now new prospects for cooperation through the joint commission, and Paris and Moroni had the political will to find a just and lasting settlement to the Mayotte problem.

MADAGASCAR

Health Minister Meets With Visiting Soviets

MB211730 Antananarivo Domestic Service in French 1030 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The minister of health, Dr Jean-Jacques Seraphin, yesterday afternoon met with the Federation of Soviet Trade Unions delegation which is currently visiting our country. At the meeting, the minister informed his guests of the accomplishments in the field of public health in Madagascar, and stressed the efforts made by the revolutionary administration toward democratizing health care, with the objective of achieving good health for all by the year 2000.

The difficulties facing Madagascar as a developing country were also mentioned by the minister. He informed them of the establishment of health services in the decentralized collectives.

MALAWI

Britain Signs Agreement To Provide Aid

MB210719 Blantyre Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] The Governments of Malawi and Britain today signed a 24.5 million kwacha aid agreement to meet British aid programs to Malawi in the 1984-85 financial year. The ceremony took place in Lilongwe, where a senior official in the Ministry of Finance signed on behalf of the Malawi Government, while the acting British high commissioner to Malawi, Mr (Patrick Philimon), signed on behalf of his government.

Over half of the money will be spent on training Malawians in Britain and the provision of British technical assistance personnel in Malawi, and the rest will be used on development projects. The agreement also says in the 1983-84 financial year, British aid to Malawi will amount to 20 million kwacha.

Speaking after signing the agreement, the official thanked the British Government for its continued assistance to Malawi. The acting British high commissioner to Malawi, Mr (Philimon), said his government was happy to participate in the country's development.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO Leader Rejects 'Disengagement' in Angola

LD210435 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2011 GMT 20 Dec 83

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, Dec. 20 (TANJUG) — SWAPO President Sam Nujoma fully turned down proposals of the South African racist regime for the so-called disengagement in Angola, "since that is solely one in a series of attempts to render Namibia's decolonization conditional on blackmails," he said.

In his statement to TANJUG, Nujoma added that the U.N. Resolution 435 remains the exclusive basis for Namibia's decolonization. He assessed as highly negative and unsuccessful engagement of "the Contact Group" of Western countries which, he emphasized, "gave powers to themselves to mediate with South Africa."

Instead of to exert pressure on their strong economic partner South Africa [words indistinct] observe U.N. decisions, those countries, by delaying negotiations, practically "protected interests [words indistinct] South Africa."

"South Africa," Nujoma said, "those are practically associated interests of multinational companies of Western countries, therefore no wonder that those countries have not given the promised contribution to the implementation of the Resolution 435." [sentence as received]

Nujoma said SWAPO has full support of the Angolan Government and the attempt of South African and American diplomacies to render Namibia's independence conditional on "mutual disengagement" and withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola will fail.

SWAPO Warns of Military Conflict Escalation

MB211800 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1700 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] The military conflict in Namibia will escalate. That is the warning from the administrative secretary of SWAPO, Moses Garoeb. He has been speaking to Capital from Luanda. He feels that there is no chance for a political settlement in Namibia next year. He says SWAPO will continue its struggle against the South Africans in 1984.

[Begin recording] There will be more conflict and SWAPO is ready to continue in the new year with all its power at its disposal to ensure that the armed struggle is intensified, the political struggle is intensified, the diplomatic struggle is intensified, with a view to ensure that, if not through Resolution 435 — and believe you me, we believe in this — South Africa is defeated on the military field. [end recording]

Garoeb blames South Africa and the United States for the delay in implementing the UN Resolution 435 on Namibian independence.

SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha Discusses Conflict in Region

MB211422 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1414 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 21, SAPA — The conflict in southern Africa would become more serious and attacks by South Africa's enemies would become more intense before a solution was found to the regions problems, the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said tonight. Mr Botha was talking on the SABC programme "Rekenskap" in his first general interview since returning last week from a fortnight of official meetings in Europe and after his brief visit to Swaziland yesterday. Although he made no specific reference to either trip, the minister alluded to them when discussing the effect of world, and particularly African, sentiment on South Africa. He said he was more optimistic about regional affairs at present than in the late 1970s. He believed that South Africa now had many good, moderate leaders of all races and that "it is our destiny to come together." South Africans must grow in trust, unanimity, love of their land and goodwill towards each other, no matter what race. "One cannot rob a country when it is built on trust."

"It would be tragic if South Africa, with the infrastructure and knowledge it has been given, is destroyed by division, bitterness and misunderstanding. Then we wouldn't need the UN and the Cubans."

Mr Botha said he felt reassured by the results of the constitutional referendum and that two black African leaders, whom he would not name, had congratulated him on the outcome. He said they saw it as a sign of progress. This was an indication that the country was progressing and South Africa should continue to communicate with its neighbors and the West. Another sign that South Africa was moving in the right direction was the fact that "the UN condemned our new constitution." [as received]

He said: "The time and the facts are against our enemies" and the truth about black Africa was "seeping out faster than ever" to the West. "I don't get any pleasure out of the fact, but the majority of African countries are retrogressing — economically, socially and in their infrastructures. Agriculture is in a bad state. There is hunger, illiteracy, sickness. On every level, Africa is sliding deeper and deeper into wretchedness." Instead of seeking solutions, some African leaders look for the "reasons" on which to blame "this frustrating retrogression." South Africa was "just one of those reasons," Mr Botha said.

While South Africa was coming closer to finding a solution for internal problems, the conflict around the country would get worse and "our enemies attempts to check progress will become more intense." South Africa would withstand any threat, with military force if necessary. "In the southern African context we are a power with interests. We have certain rights and I think we have the capability of enforcing those rights, if we have to. We want peace, but we have the ability to account for ourselves against those looking for our downfall. In the final instance, we have to stay prepared to protect our interests with military capability."

On the SWA-Namibia issue, Mr Botha said that, even after the Cape Verde discussions and his recent European tour, the territory was "unfortunately" still "at the crossroads." He admitted that South Africa's main prerequisite for a settlement — the withdrawal of all Cuban soldiers from Angola — was hindering independence. But even if there was ultimately an internationally acceptable solution on paper, he doubted whether "it would ever be peaceful." It was to Angola's discredit that it had rejected South Africa's recent proposal to conditionally withdraw troops from Soutern Angola. "This was an effort from our side to bring peace and a reduction of tension to the whole region. After rejecting the proposal I dont think Angola will so easily or persuasively in the future be able to say that South Africa is the aggressor."

Stresses Military Readiness

MB211946 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, says South Africa must continue to seek peace through negotiation with Western countries and neighboring states, but remain prepared to defend its interests in the last instance with military force. Mr

Botha said in a radio program that South Africa, in the southern African context, was a power with certain interests and rights which it would enforce if the need arose.

The conflict in Southern Africa would become more serious before a solution was found to the problems of the region. He was, nevertheless, convinced that there were enough moderate leaders of all population groups who would realize that there could not be more than one victor in the region. Mr Botha said that as foreign pressure increased, internal moderate leaders would realize that their salvation did not lie in promises, as such promises had yielded no fruit elsewhere in Africa. Referring to the South-West Africa question, he said that no peaceful solution would be possible without a solution to the struggle and conflict in Angola. The struggle in Angola centered chiefly on what he termed the foreign occupation of an African country by Cuban troops. The Cubans, he said, had been brought in not to try to stop South Africa, but to rout UNITA and FNLA [Angolan National Liberation Front] forces, and prop up the MPLA regime.

Speaking in a television interview, Mr Botha said there were no grounds for alleging that South Africa was a destabilizing force in Africa. International facts and figures showed that Africa was deteriorating financially, socially, and politically, and had experienced some 50 coups in its history. South Africa, with its stable economic, political, and social order, had extended the hand of friendship to its neighbors, and all it expected in return was that they should not allow terrorists to operate against it from within their borders. Mr Botha said that thousands of workers from countries such as Mozambique and Lesotho came to South Africa to earn a living.

Johannesburg Reports U.S. Abstention in UN Vote

MB210738 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] In the United Nations Security Council, the United States has abstained from voting on a resolution urging South Africa to stop her military operations in southern Angola and to withdraw her troops immediately. Fourteen other members of the Security Council voted for the resolution, which also states that Angola is entitled to redress for any material damage it suffered as a result of the South African operations.

After the voting, the American ambassador to the United Nations, Mrs Jean Kirkpatrick, said that her country would do nothing that would jeopardize attempts to solve the problems of southern Africa in a peaceful manner. She praised the South African offer to withdraw its troops from Angola, and called it a major new step in the arduous process of trying to resolve southern African problems peacefully.

Prime Minister Assails Resolution

MB212000 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] The prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, says South Africa would welcome order, peace, and stability in Angola. Commenting on the Security Council resolution condemning the South African presence in southern Angola, he said that it was not South Africa that was responsible for destruction in Angola but the civil war raging in that country.

Radio Comments on Latest Talks With Mozambique

MB211612 Johannesburg International Service in English 15 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Station commentary: "Relations With Mozambique"]

[Text] President Samora Machel has commented on the Swaziland meeting between senior ministers of Mozambique and South Africa, with his most positive statement in years on relations between the two countries. He expressed the hope that the meeting would lead to the signing of a nonaggression pact, and the improvement of trade relations.

That is precisely what South Africa has offered through the years, not only to Mozambique but to all its neighbors. Pretoria's policy on regional relations has always rested on two main tenets: The first is that differences among states in the subcontinent should be resolved by negotiation. The second is that those states should acknowledge their obvious interdependence and, by acting on it through cooperation, free their great potential for economic development.

When Mozambique became independent under a Marxist regime 8 years ago, Prime Minister John Vorster said South Africa was willing to cooperate with any state, regardless of its beliefs, if it was prepared to pursue peaceful relations. Any differences that arose could be settled through negotiation. That remains the South African policy, stated to the point where the present prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, has offered to enter into nonaggression treaties with governments in the region that subscribe to the same principles.

South African-Mozambican relations constitute an especially apposite test of the ability and willingness of countries in Southern Africa to cooperate to their own advantage, regardless of political differences. The economic interdependence of these two countries, with their fundamentally opposed political philosophies, is exceptionally close and highly visible. It is well illustrated in the sphere of transport. As Finance Minister Owen Horwood pointed out recently, South Africa is responsible for maintaining railways and harbor facilities in Mozambique. A major proportion of Mozambique's revenue is derived from South Africa's exports, using those facilities. And, of course, the Transvaal industrial complex, in turn, benefits from having the use of that short and efficiently run route.

But the Frelimo government broke the ground rules for cooperation. In time, Maputo became a main base for the Soviet-supported terrorist offensive against South Africa. ANC terrorism provoked retaliatory and preemptive strikes against the organization's bases. And the ideological preoccupation that led Frelimo to support the ANC was responsible internally for a degree of authoritarianism, social dislocation, and economic disintegration, that resulted in the popular disillusionment from which MNR was born. President Machel indicates that his

government, under increasing internal pressure, wishes to return to the principles of peaceful cooperation and negotiation over differences. If so, he will find the South African policy unchanged.

ZAMBIA

President, Delegation Return From PTA Summit

MB201942 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] The president arrived in Lusaka this afternoon from a 2-day summit meeting of the Preferential Trade Area, PTA, in Harare, Zimbabwe. Dr Kaunda was met on arrival by party Secretary General Humphrey Mulemba, Prime Minister Nalumino Mundia, and Secretary of State for Defense and Security Grey Zulu.

Dr Kaunda's delegation to Zimbabwe included Chairman of the Economic and Finance Committee (Anson Nsokor, Minister of Finance Luke Mwananashiku; National Commission for Development Planning Minister Dr Henry Meebelo; Foreign Affairs Minister Prof Lameck Goma; and Works and Supply Minister Haswell Mwale. Others who welcomed Dr Kaunda on arrival were slogan-chanting party individuals.

ZIMBABWE

Government Releases 3 Air Force Officers

NC221134 Paris AFP in English 1130 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Harare, Dec 22 (AFP) — The Zimbabwe Government today released the three Air Force officers whose continued detention despite their acquittals in August of sabotage charges has been a major source of strain between the British and Zimbabwe Governments.

The three officers released are Wing Commander John Cox and Air Lieutenants Barrington Lloyd and Neville Weir, who all have dual British and Zimbabwe citizenship.

Security Official Comments on Botswana Meeting

MB220857 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] The minister of state responsible for security, Comrade Emmerson Munangagwa, has issued the following statement:

There was a defense and security meeting held at Plumtree yesterday between the Government of Botswana and the Zimbabwe Defense and Security Ministry. The Zimbabwe side requested this very urgent meeting as a result of an incident which occurred on 20 December 1983, about 1.5 km south of the Ramokgwebane border post, where a Zimbabwean National Army, ZNA, soldier was fatally shot by units of the Botswana Defense Force. Upon receipt of the information about the presence of dissidents in that area, the ZNA deployed a stick of six soldiers to follow up the dissidents. The stick followed the spoor to 50 meters into Botswana, whereupon it was fired upon, resulting in the death of one member of the ZNA.

The two delegations yesterday afternoon visited the scene of the incident and asserted that the ZNA stick had not specifically violated the Botswana-Zimbabwe border. The Botswana side was led by the minister of public service and information, Mr Daniel Kwelagobe, and Comrade Munangagwa led the Zimbabwe side.

That is the end of the statement.

PTA Leaders Issue Final Communique at Summit

MB201954 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] The heads of state and government of the Preferential Trade Area, PTA, have reaffirmed their commitment to the PTA as an instrument for promoting self-reliance and self-sustained economic growth in the region. The commitment was stated in a final communique at the end of the second PTA summit in Harare today. They called on all countries which have not yet joined the organization to do so as soon as possible. They also expressed regret at the unwillingness of the developed countries to implement a new international economic order.

Leaders endorsed the appointment of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe as the interim trade clearinghouse, and the establishment of the PTA Trade and Development Bank.

In today's closing address, the chairman of the PTA, Comrade Robert Mugabe, urged member countries to be committed to the progress and peaceful development of the organization. He also urged member states to prove to the outside world that the organization is worthy of support and help.

The next PTA summit will be held in Bujumbura, Republic of Burundi, in December 1984.

Secretary General Suspension Upheld

MB201854 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, said in Harare today that the Preferential Trade Area [PTA] summit has upheld the suspension of PTA Secretary General Samuel Kingi. Speaking in an interview Dr Kaunda, however, declined to shed more light on the issue, saying it was the responsibility of Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, now chairman of the PTA, to announce the PTA's final decision.

A communique issued at the end of the PTA second meeting said PTA members endorsed the decision by the Council of Ministers for the appointment of an acting secretary general, an administrative director, and two other experts.

Mr Kingi was suspended last month by President Kaunda, in his capacity as PTA chairman, for (?disturbing) reports regarding the performance of the PTA secretariat.

Meanwhile, PTA heads of state and government who attended the organization's second summit have pledged to support the PTA and make it successful. According to a communique issued in Harare at the end of the 2-day summit, the heads of state and government said the countries of the subregion had no one to rely upon except themselves. They said the marked unwillingness of the developed countries to implement the new international economic order and the inability by international institutions to assist developing countries was a sign that the PTA members should be self-reliant.

Among some of the Council of Ministers' decisions endorsed by the heads of state and government are the establishment of a common list showing the proposed tariff and nontariff reductions for the PTA when member states start trading on July 1 next year, and the amendment of the protocol on trade and transit facilities.

U.S. Officials Cited on Cut in Aid Program

MB210746 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] The United States has cut aid to Zimbabwe to 40 million dollars in the current fiscal year. This about half the amount originally (?envisioned). State Department officials are reported to have denied that the cut resulted from tension between the two countries over Zimbabwe's recent vote in the United Nations.

However, a State Department spokesman, Mr Joseph Reap, said it is not (?a secret) that there are differences of opinion between the United States and Zimbabwe, particularly on international issues. The issues are the American invasion of Grenada and the shooting down of the South Korean airliner which flew over Soviet territory in October.

PRC Medical Experts To Arrive Under New Accord

MB201900 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] About 14 Chinese medical experts are expected in Zimbabwe shortly under an agreement signed between Zimbabwe and the People's Republic of China in Harare today. The team, which comprises an acupuncture specialist, surgeons, and other experts, is expected to be absorbed by the (Chitulwiza) Council.

The acting minister of manpower planning and development, Comrade Kumbirai Kangai, and the Chinese ambassador to Zimbabwe, Comrade Chu Qiyuan, signed the agreement on behalf of their governments.

Japan Signs Loan for Satellite at Mazoe

MB220636 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Zimbabwe and Japan today signed an 11.6 million dollar loan agreement. The loan will be used for the installation of an earth satellite station at Mazoe, about 40 km northwest of Harare. The accord, which was signed by the minister of finance, economic planning, and development, Comrade Bernard Chidzero, and the Japanese ambassador to Zimbabwe, Mr Seiken Sasaki, is payable over 25 years with a 7-year grace period. The satellite station is expected to be functioning by 1985.

The minister of information, posts, and telecommunications, Comrade Nathan Shamuyarira, who witnessed the signing ceremony, said the satellite would increase Zimbabwe's capability to communicate with the world while at the same time reducing dependence on apartheid-ruled South Africa. Mr Sasaki said the new satellite will make Zimbabwe the center for telecommunications in southern Africa.